

Welcome

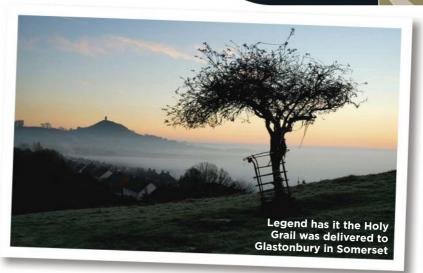


Part of the appeal of history is in the desire to separate fact from fiction. And nowhere have these two become more muddled than in **the legend of the Holy Grail**. Indeed, whether such a thing ever existed in the first place has been **debated for 2,000 years**,

without anyone coming close to answering the question. So why does it continue to fascinate? How did the legend originate? And how has it been appropriated by everyone **from knights to Nazis** over the centuries? The mystery unravels from page 24.

Sticking with the unlikely, we've got the story of the most remarkable car race ever (*p74*) – **think Wacky Races without roads** and you're halfway there. And there's more historical fact than you might imagine behind the 2006 movie *300*. We uncover **the truth behind the Battle of Thermopylae** on page 68.

On the other hand, few events in history have been as well documented as the Holocaust, and yet it remains **virtually impossible to comprehend**. Probably the most famous and touching artefact is the diary of a young



Jewish girl, Anne Frank (*p63*), telling the story of her life in hiding in occupied Amsterdam.

We've plenty more, from the **Ancient Greeks** (*p60*) to the **Vikings** (*p54*) and the **Cuban Missile Crisis** (*p46*). And, if that's not enough, visit our website, Facebook and Twitter pages for new stories every day. See page 73 for details.



Paul McGuinness

Editor

Don't miss our November issue, on sale 15 October

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ON THE COVER

Your key to the big stories...



THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

1,501
The maximum
number of jury
members present
at a trial in Ancient

Athens. See page 61.

96

Distance in miles – out of a total of 22,000 – completed by the French Sizaire-Naudin car in the 1908 New York-Paris race before breaking down. See page 77.

2 The

The DEFCON level during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. It remains the highest level ever reached. See page 52.



TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...

Snapshots

Take a look at the big picture.....p8

I Read the News Today

From a beer flood to the first parachute, explore October through the ages......p14

Yesterday's Papers

Raising King Henry VIII's beloved flagship, the *Mary Rose*____p16

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John Logie Baird pioneers television.....p18

The Extraordinary Tale of...

THE BIG STORY

THE QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL

Separating fact from fiction of the chalice that caught Christ's blood......p24

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Is the Holy Grail real, and where has it been over the last 2,000 years?......p26

Timeline

The ongoing search for the Grail, from Christ's crucifixion to Dan Brown......p36

Soldiers of Christ

Get Hooked

Embark on your own Grail quest.....p44

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DIGGING INTO HISTORY

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Return of the Vikings.....p54

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History Makers: Anne Frank A young girl and her diary......p63

The Reel Story: 300

King Leonidas and his Spartans......p68

Great Adventures: 1908 New York-Paris Race

The original Wacky Races.....p74



A&Q

Ask the Experts

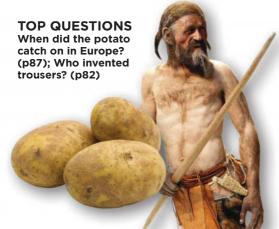
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READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch - share your opinions on history and our magazine

DEATH OF A KING

Julian Humphrys' article on The Wars of the Roses (The Big Story, August 2015) did an excellent job of presenting a complex situation clearly but with enough detail to make it come alive.

However, one or two points might be amplified. Edward IV is described as "unexpectedly dying at the early age of 41".

dozen battles that had placed him securely on the throne. He then relaxed physically. He ate, drank and was merry. According to some sources, he would intentionally make himself sick and then start eating again. From his mid-30s, his health started to deteriorate and soon foreign

"Of all the monarchs of Europe, Edward IV was the least likely to make old bones."

The average age of death was much lower in the 15th century than it is now, even when violence was not the cause. An attack of plague or an abscessed tooth could bring a kingdom to disaster. Hence the need for an unchallenged heir in waiting – preferably of adult years.

Edward IV had led his armies from the front in the

ambassadors commented on his "gross corpulence".

In December 1482, Edward suffered a terrible shock when Louis XI of France cancelled the betrothal of his son, Dauphin Charles, to Edward's eldest daughter, Princess Elizabeth, and the annual payment to stop Edward invading France again. This was called a pension but was really protection money.

In February 1483, the King went on a fishing trip on the Thames. According to some reports, he fell in the river. He certainly contracted a chill. Given his general ill health, worsened by shock, it is not surprising that it proved fatal.

Edward IV's death was unlikely to have been a total surprise. Of all the monarchs of Europe, he was the least likely to make old bones. If he had been as abstemious and active as Louis XI of France, Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain and Maximilian of Austria, the

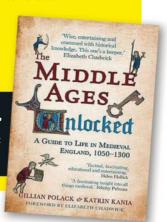
Margaret wins a copy of *The Middle Ages Unlocked*, by Gillian Polack and Katrin Kania, published by Amberley Publishing, worth £20. Covering religion, education, art, magic and more, this book is an entertaining guide to life in medieval England.

King history of England might have been entirely different.

me Margaret Brown,
er. He Staffordshire

Editor replies:

As with pretty much every story we run, the hardest part is to have to leave out such fascinating asides as this, so thank you, Margaret, for your informative letter.



Love the Tower of London feature. Visited London for the first time this year but ran out of time to visit. It's top of my list when we visit again.

@aimzta85

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Page 39 of the latest issue (The Victorians, The Big Story, September 2015) states that Ireland suffered a great famine after disease destroyed 60 per cent of the country's potato crops. The implication being that the country wasn't producing food at the time, whereas as the truth, as I am sure the author is aware, was that the country was in fact exporting a surplus of food. It is about time this myth of a 'potato famine' is put to bed, and the reality of mass starvation from both the prevailing economic theory of the day and a legacy of imperial conquest was more widely acknowledged.

Mark Lynagh, via email

MORE TO THE STORY Ireland's failed potato crop of 1845 was only part of the story of the Irish Famine

Editor replies:

The tragedy of the famine was the result of hugely complex social, political and economic factors. Unfortunately, within a very limited word count, it's simply not possible to go into the detail to explain this complicated and sensitive episode. But rest assured, we'll be revisiting this important matter in much more detail soon.

ANTI HERO

A I have enjoyed your magazine immensely since being given it as a gift last Christmas and have learned much from your articles since I subscribed. However, I



Very good article, by Julian Humphrys, on the War of the Roses. I especially liked his piece on the Battle of Bosworth. Also, his other article 'Clash of Oars' was brilliant and I love the painting by Andrea Vicentino showing the sea battle. This was new to me, and has left me wanting to find out more about this part of European history. Flaine Robinson

was slightly disappointed with the article on Che Guevara (The History Makers, August 2015) as I thought it failed to portray the misery and suffering radicals like Che have spread.

I am always amazed that Marxists can always see the 'misery and suffering' that they attribute to capitalism but are blind to the death and suffering they bring to the table. Che was a true Leninist, where useful idiots are continually used to prop up the tyranny against individualism and then exterminated once their usefulness has diminished. All that prevented Che from exceeding Lenin's death-andmisery toll was a lack of area and occupants. His story (as well as all national leaders) should be viewed from the perspective of how many people he freed from tyranny v how many he forced into bondage or killed.

In Marxism, those at the top always prosper for a short period. Perhaps a story on George Orwell and his Animal Farm would have been a good complement to the Che story.

Greg R Snyder,

Colorado, USA

FILLING IN THE PAST

I would like to thank you for the article on the Battle of Flodden (Battlefield, June 2015). I live in the Scottish Borders, where the major towns celebrate their annual Common Ridings, which focus on the return and sacrifices of townsfolk made during the battle.

It was nice to celebrate the Common Ridings knowing more about their history.

Steph Brown,

Scottish Borders



WHO'S THE MAN? Molly is keen to find out this Tommy's name,

Editor replies:

Such festivals are often an enjoyable way to celebrate or commemorate our past, so I'm thrilled to hear that we helped illuminate the events for you.

THE GREAT KHAN

There has never been a greater conqueror than Genghis Khan (The History Makers, September 2015). The son of an illiterate nomad, he was a political and military genius. He is one of history's immortals - an outstanding leader, driven by a vision for peaceful rule.

His vision turned out to be a fantasy but, in terms of the sheer scale of his conquests, seldom, if ever, has a vision and a man's character had such a massive effect on the world.

Dr Barry Clayton,

Lancashire

I can't get enough, I just love these magazines!! Best part of the month!! #happy @ClaireHac

MYSTERY SOLDIER

In the August edition of History Revealed on page 94 (Books), alongside Voices From the Front by Peter Hart, you published a photo of a British soldier carrying his comrade through the trenches. Whenever World War I is mentioned, this photo seems to crop up – I've seen it in museums in France - but I'd like to know who this man is? Does anyone know his name and, importantly, did he survive the war?

Molly Sterry,

Buckinghamshire

Editor replies:

The picture in question is a still from the 1916 British documentary. The Battle of the Somme. The image is part of a sequence captioned: "British Tommies rescuing a comrade under shell fire. (This man died 30 minutes after reaching the trenches)." While the casualty appears to be wearing the shoulder flash of 29th Division, his rescuer has never been identified, despite considerable research. If anyone can shed light on his identity, we'd be grateful to hear from you.

The most interesting mag ever!! Donald Macdonald

ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 19 are: John Plewes, Derbyshire V Benjamin, East Sussex Robert Parkes, West Midlands Congratulations! You have each won a copy of **King** John: Treachery, Tyranny and the Road to Magna Carta by Marc Morris, worth £25. Test yourself with this month's crossword on page 96.

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7







dying out by the time of the Great Depression. Manhattan. If that isn't enough, he spends his Kelly sank into obscurity, and this doughnutchomping challenge on 13 October failed to paying audiences, perching on flagpoles for Kelly had risen to fame in the twenties for as long as he could. His record was 49 days I hour, achieved in 1930. The bizarre fad of flagpole-sitting was shortlived and already travelling the United States and, in front of time upside down eating 13 coffee-soaked and flagpole sitter Alvin 'Shipwreck' Kelly doughnuts as his own way of celebrating balances in a headstand 54 floors above evive his death-defying career. 0 4 0 4 OCTOBER 2015



SNAPSHOT

1931 TOP OF THE LINE

To match the ever-increasing number of cars being sold, British roads get a make-over throughout the twenties and thirties, which keeps the men meticulously painting the white lines busy. Stretches of street, like the Great West Road seen here running through the London district of Osterley, are either constructed from scratch or expanded into dual carriageways. It's not until 1959, however, that Britain opens its first motorway.







"I READ THE NEWS TODAY..."

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in October

THE GREY GHOST

The *Queen Mary*, known as 'Grey Ghost', usually made the Atlantic crossing without an escort at all, as it was thought to be fast enough to evade any enemy.

CERTAL LAND TO

BIRDS OF PARADISE

1492 COLUMBUS TAKES A TURN

Today, 12 October is celebrated as 'Columbus Day' - to mark the day when Italian explorer Christopher Columbus arrived in the New World. Mistakenly hailed as the man who discovered America,

Columbus actually landed on one of the islands of the Bahamas, but if he hadn't changed direction a few days earlier, he would indeed have landed at Florida.

After two months at sea, Columbus

and his crew were desperate to find land (in Asia, as he thought), and believed birds would lead the way. So when a large flock was seen flying south-west on 7 October, Columbus ordered the Santa María, Pinta and Niña to stop sailing west, which would have taken them to North America, and follow the tern-like birds. When land was finally spotted at 2am on 12 October, a small cannon was fired.

PERMANENT HAIR

NOT SO SHIP SHAPE 1942 MARY'S MAJOR MISTAKE

As it transported troops across the Atlantic in World War II, the *Queen Mary* would use **zig-zags to avoid U-Boats**. Yet, on 2 October 1942, the mighty ocean liner's tactics were fatally miscalculated and the ship **rammed HMS Curacoa**, its own escort, almost slicing the smaller vessel in half and killing some 300 sailors. With U-Boats ever-threatening, however, the *Queen Mary* couldn't stop to pick up survivors but was ordered to sail on.

LONG-LASTING HAIR CARE 1906 SWEPT UP BY THE WAVE

With the help (and boundless patience) of his wife, German hairdresser Karl Nessler spent six hours on 8 October 1906 demonstrating his mane masterpiece, the permanent wave. In order to create the waves of the perm, a dozen brass rollers, weighing over 10kg combined, heated to 100 degrees were needed. An intricate system of weights and pulleys prevented the piping-hot metal from touching his wife Katharina's skin, but it was still a hugely risky procedure. In the first attempts, her hair was completely burned off.

THE SOUND OF WAR 1739 EAR SAY

Although the War of Jenkin's Ear between Britain and Spain wasn't declared until October 1739, it was an incident eight years earlier that would give the conflict its name. In 1731, a British ship was boarded by the Spanish, and captain Robert Jenkins had his ear cut off. This wasn't seen as overly serious at the time – but when Britain needed an impetus for war, Jenkins was summoned to Parliament, to present his pickle-preserved ear and recount his shocking tale.

LONDON'S BEER FLOOD 1814 IN THE DRINK

Those living in St Giles, London, faced a killer flood on 17 October 1814 - but it wasn't water surging through the slums, but beer. When a vat in the Horse Shoe Brewery burst open, 1 million litres of porter spilled into the streets in a 5-metre-high tidal wave. Several buildings were destroyed or damaged - including, ironically, a local pub - and not everyone was able to clamber on to furniture in time. It is thought that eight people perished.

GETTY X4, ISTOCK X7

Emperor Constantine was preparing for battle when he claimed to have a divine vision, promising him victory if his soldiers painted the Christian

cross on their shields. He ordered them to do so, won the battle and became the first Christian Emperor of Rome.

Daily sta



HITCHCOCK: THE EVIL GENIUS Pages 19-22

Four centuries and £4 million later...

SPRAY ON

To remove salt and prevent the wood from drying out too quickly, the Mary Rose has been s with water and chemicals for around 30 years. The high-pressure jets were only turned off in 2013.

AFTER 437 years, she didn't know what hit her.

The Mary Rose awoke yester-day to a 20th century welcome which literally shivered her timbers.

No sooner had the pride of Henry VIII's Navy popped the first of her age-blackened oak into the leaden skies and horizontal rain of the Solent than she was buzzed by heli-

Story: WILLIAM GREAVES Picture : CLIVE LIMPKIN

copters, trumpeted by the sirens of a notilla of unfamiliar little ships. . . and smashed over the head by 56 tons of Meccano when a support pin sheared.

sheared.

But by this time she not only looked like a ship—she proved she is a ship.

From 100 yards away the sound of the lifting frame crashing 7tt. on to its priceless charge sounded like the crack of doom. Minutes passed in suppense. Public school accents battled to compensate mounting panic at the thought of their £4 million project in jeopardy.

But Mary Rose proved as indomitable as Henry Tudor's sister, after whom she was named. She shook off a couple of pleces of superficial timber in anger and took the rest with an immovable stoicism undiminished by nearly five centuries.

All the yellow steel framework which nursed her could not disguise the dignity of workmanship which fashioned the British Navy's first custom-built warship. She smelt like fish. The Solent mud dripped off her as she swung alarmingly in the harbinger of a forecasted gale.

Later she was lowered on to a barge

Later she was lowered on to a barge to take her into dry dock for restoration in Portsmouth. Mary Rose was coming home. And nothing would stop her now.

Up she rises-Pages 2 and 3.

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YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On 12 October 1982, papers report the raising of Henry VIII's ship, the Mary Rose

"A FASCINATING AND RARE TUDOR ARTEFACT"

aving lain at the bottom of the Solent for 437 years, the *Mary Rose* was finally raised in 1982, as 60 million watched the historic moment on television.

The flagship of Henry VIII's navy had sunk in the strait between Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight in 1545, while her crew prepared to face a French invasion fleet, yet she wasn't the victim of enemy fire. What caused her to go down remains unclear, but it is possible a wave smashed against the hull while the gunports were open, allowing water to flood in. It took only minutes for the massive warship to sink, taking with her all but around 30 of the crew of between 400-700. Henry himself was watching and, allegedly, could hear the screams of the men as they drowned.

Apart from a few sporadic dives, the *Mary Rose* was lost for over four centuries, until a thorough search began in 1965. Over the next 17 years, tens of thousands of artefacts – from leather shoes and razors to medicine jars and syringes – were retrieved and an immensely ambitious £4 million project to raise the ship was put into operation.

On 11 October, dozens of ships swarmed the Solent to witness and broadcast the event. At the moment the muddy hull broke the surface at 9am, a cannon was fired at nearby Southsea Castle, but not everything went smoothly. Part of the lifting frame snapped before midday, bringing metal crashing down on the sodden wood. Miraculously, it caused little damage and by the end of the day, the *Mary Rose* was safely on a barge to Portsmouth so that the extensive reconstruction work could begin. •



1982 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

1 OCTOBER The Sony CDP-101 – the world's **inaugural commercially released CD player** – goes on sale, but in Japan only. The first album available in the new format is Billy Joel's *52nd Street*.

3 OCTOBER Despite a 2 hour 17 minute winning time for the Detroit Free Press Marathon, the story of the day is **Anthony 'Scott' Weiland's 4 hours 7 minutes** – he ran the full 26-mile course backwards.

10 OCTOBER Pope John Paul II canonises the Polish friar Maximilian Kolbe, who was killed in 1941 when he **volunteered to die in place of a stranger** in the concentration camp, Auschwitz.



WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

A Scottish engineer pioneers television using nothing but odds and ends

FACING ADVERSITY
Throughout his life, Baird
suffered from chronic ill
health (it stopped him
serving in World War I), but
he was willing to endure
further pain during his
talovicion experiments. He

television experiments. He once suffered from a 1.000-volt electric shock.

1925 JOHN LOGIE BAIRD TRANSMITS THE SMALL SCREEN'S FIRST STAR

The idea of the television had enthralled inventors for years – but the breakthrough came in a poky attic laboratory in London

ohn Logie Baird rushed down the stairs from his rented Soho attic in a state of feverish excitement. Moments earlier, the 37-year-old had just, for the first time, transmitted a moving television image in greyscale, which clearly showed gradations of light and shade. His subject on that 2 October afternoon had been the crudely made head off a ventriloquist's dummy – which Baird named 'Stookie Bill' – but now he needed to see what a human looked like.

So young office worker William Taynton was hurriedly brought upstairs and perched in front of Baird's strange, homemade transmitter, where, after a bit of cajoling to sit still under the heat and glare from the bulbs, his face was successfully broadcast. Taynton, unwittingly, became the first-ever person to be televised in a full tonal range.

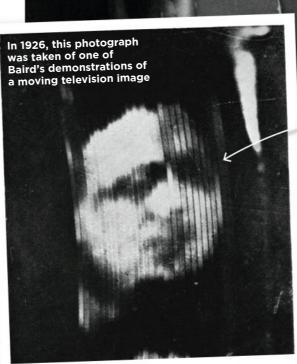
RAMSHACKLE INVENTION

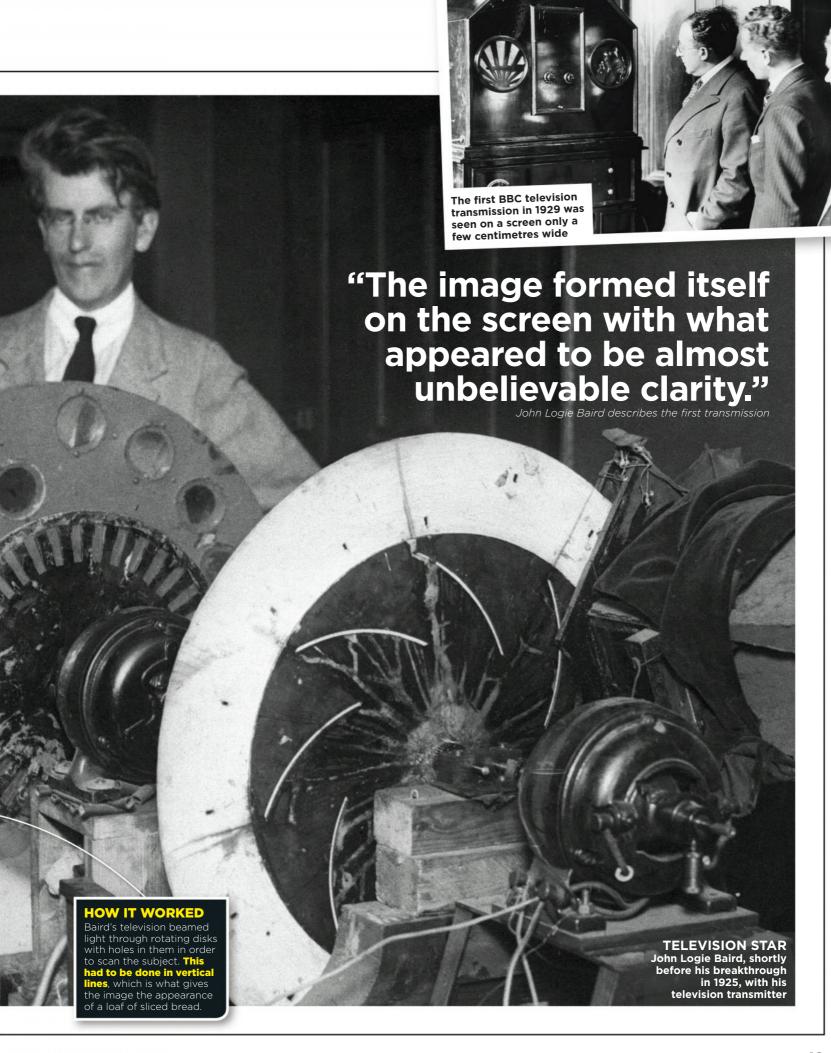
What made Baird's achievement more astounding was the rather ramshackle state of his invention. Far from the sleek sets found in billions of homes today, his television was made from an electric fan motor and projection lamps, housed in a tea-chest and biscuit tin respectively, and used cardboard disks and lenses from a bicycle shop to capture the image. The whole thing was held together by wooden blocks, sewing needles, string and sealing wax. Yet it worked.

Despite the initial reaction being less than encouraging – he scared a newspaper editor, who called him a razor-wielding "lunatic" – Baird demonstrated his television, on a display screen only a few centimetres square, to 40 spellbound scientists in January 1926. It was a moment that changed the world forever.

FATHER OF TELEVISION

For a few years, Baird's 'televisor' went from strength to strength. Baird established his own company, transmitted across the Atlantic and, in 1928, demonstrated colour television. In the thirties, advances were moving away from mechanical televisions towards electric sets. Baird's efforts to keep up may have been ruined by a fire in his lab, meaning his system was dropped, but without Baird, who knows if the 20th century would have had one of its most socially important inventions? •





THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

World War I nurse Edith Cavell, who treated all wounded

Throughout her life in Britain

and Belgium, Edith Cavell never married, although it has been claimed she had a youthful romance with her second cousin, Eddy. On the day of her execution, she wrote his initials in a book.

1915 A BRITISH NURSE IS EXECUTED FOR HELPING ALLIED SOLDIERS ESCAPE

On **12 October 1915** – 100 years ago – Edith Cavell was shot by a German firing squad, but that didn't end her impact on World War I

ours before she was taken from the cell where she had spent the last ten weeks and executed, Edith Cavell had a visitor. Her friend, Reverend H Stirling T Gahan was permitted to enter the prison in Belgium on the evening of 11 October 1915 and, though there was nothing he could do to change the sentence awaiting the nurse the next morning, he hoped to share with her some kind words and the Holy Communion.

To his surprise, he found Cavell "perfectly calm and resigned". She spoke of the kind treatment towards her while imprisoned and thanked God for some quiet before the end, confessing, "This time of rest has been a great mercy." This courageous stoicism was nothing new. She dedicated her entire 49 years to helping others, giving little thought to herself – it's what drove her into nursing, and into a terrible war.

NURTURING AND NURSING

Born 4 December 1865 to a poor vicar, a young Edith Louisa Cavell

grew up with such principles as sacrifice and compassion. Along with three younger siblings, she was taught the Bible at the family home in the small Norfolk village of Swardeston. A lover of dancing, art and tennis, Cavell's childhood was happy, and she showed signs of the unshakeable selflessness for which she would become famous. To pay for a new church room, she sold cards she painted with her sister, raising £300.

After school, Cavell had several jobs as a governess, including a five-year post in Brussels starting in 1890. When her father became ill in 1895, however, she returned to England to care for him and it was seeing his health improve that inspired Cavell to enter nursing. Her training at London Hospital didn't go as smoothly as hoped – her matron described her as "unpunctual" and "unreliable" – but Cavell persevered.

In 1897, she received a medal for treating the patients of a typhoid fever outbreak and, from 1898-1906, Cavell worked in hospitals across the country. In 1907, a burgeoning reputation led her to be appointed matron of Belgium's first nursing school, the Berkendael Institute. She almost single-handedly made it a centre of excellent care and treatment (when the Queen of Belgium broke her arm, she requested a Cavell-trained nurse), all while managing a number of schools, hospitals, nursing homes and giving four lectures a week.

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

But then came World War I. When she heard the news, Cavell was actually safe in Norfolk visiting her mother, but insisted



"I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

Edith Cavell, speaking to her friend Revered H Stirling T Gahan on 11 October 1915, the night before she was executed



THE JOURNEY HOME
When the war ended, Edith Cavell's
body was exhumed and returned,
with an armed guard, to Britain

on going back to Brussels. "At a time like this," she announced, "I am more needed than ever." Under her tireless direction, the Berkendael Institute, now a Red Cross hospital, treated the horrific injuries coming from both sides of the frontline. Her first duty was healing the sick, so any wounded soldier, even German and Austrian, received the same attention without prejudice.

This meant Cavell was able to stay in Belgium after the German occupation - which gave her the irresistible chance to save even more lives by sheltering Allied soldiers. Cavell was a key figure in the underground network, providing British, French and Belgian troops with refuge, false papers, money, food and guides to get them to the neutral Netherlands. For almost a year, Cavell risked her life helping some 200 men escape German hands. It wasn't patriotism or hatred of the enemy that motivated her dangerous deeds, but a commitment to protecting others and reducing, if only by a fraction, the war's body count.

Yet German suspicions grew and on 5 August 1915, Cavell was arrested. Other collaborators were also found out – but Cavell had hoped to save the Berkendael staff from incrimination with her thorough safety measures, such as sewing her diary into a cushion.

A HERO'S RETURN
Once her body was back in
Britain, a memorial service
was held for Edith Cavell at
Westminster Abbey, with
King George V in attendance.

reburied in the cathedral

ody was then taken to ich, where she was

PROPAGANDA ICON

For ten weeks, Cavell was held in solitary confinement, although in relative comfort. Displaying maybe a bit too much honesty, bordering on naivety, she made no attempt to hide her role in the underground and confessed. At her court-martial, Cavell was sentenced to death.

There was a last hope of rescue when newspapers called for diplomatic intervention, but the British Foreign Office claimed to be "powerless" and pleas for a reprieve from US and Spanish diplomats fell on deaf ears. So at 7am on 12 October 1915, Cavell was shot and quickly buried.

That, however, wasn't the end of her war effort. With her execution sparking global outrage, Cavell – portrayed as saintly, even angelic – became an iconic figure in propaganda. She became the ultimate patriot, but in truth, she was just trying to do what she had done her whole life: help others. •



As we mark the centenary of the conflict, who are the other unsung heroes of WWI? Email: editor@historyrevealed.com



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THE QUEST FOR THE CLASSIC COLORS OF THE COLO

From the Knights Templar to the Nazis: the full story of history's greatest legend

WHAT'S THE STORY?

he quest for the Holy Grail has obsessed everyone from medieval poets and crusading knights to modern churchmen, historians, archaeologists, filmmakers, novelists and Nazi leaders – yet we don't know what it looks like, or even whether it exists at all.

In the most popular version of the story, the Holy Grail is a chalice used by Jesus during the Last Supper, which was later employed as a vial for his blood. It was seemingly smuggled across the Holy Land and Europe to Britain. Despite a series of mysterious Grail guardians, including the Fisher King and the Knights Templar, at some point the chalice disappeared.

The sacred silverware became spliced with other legends, invested with mythical powers, and hijacked by conspiracy theorists and demagogues. **Pat Kinsella** separates the few facts from the profuse fictions that continue to evolve around this elusive relic.

NOW READ ON...

NEED TO KNOW

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TIMELINE

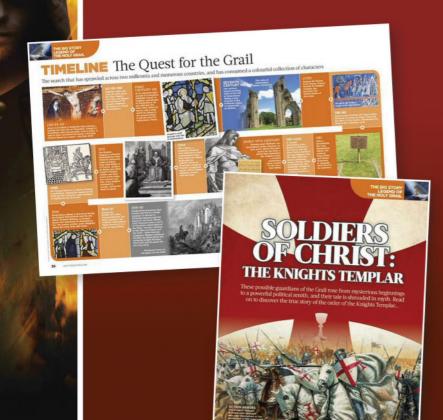
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THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

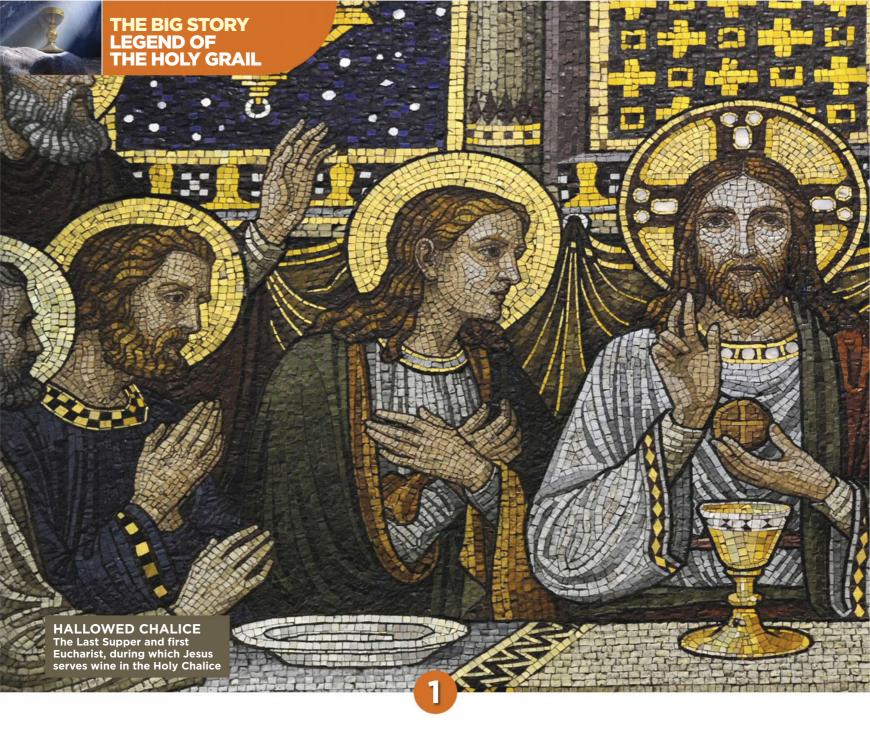
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GET HOOKED

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BIRTH OF A LEGEND

Where did the Holy Grail come from? And what might it be?

oly relics purporting to originate from the earthly life of Jesus are common currency across the Catholic world – with various churches claiming to hold everything from the Holy Prepuce (Jesus's foreskin) through to nails used during his crucifixion. The most iconic and sought-after souvenir of all, however, is the ever-elusive Holy Grail.

The enduring obsession with the Holy Grail is fuelled by the fact that its form, location and very existence remain a complete enigma. It's popularly believed to be a goblet used during the Last Supper and then employed by Joseph of Arimathea to catch Christ's blood when his side

was pierced with a spear during his crucifixion. However, some depictions have it as a bowl or a serving plate, or even as the womb of Mary Magdalene – in a scenario where she bears Jesus's offspring.

The Holy Chalice from the Last Supper is referenced in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke (which historians believe were written c80-100 AD), but it was 1,000 years later that the tale of the Grail became popular, when the medieval romantics began to pen poems about it, entwining the yarn with Arthurian sagas.

The first-known reference to the Grail was made by French poet Chrétien de Troyes in

Perceval, le Conte du Graal (which translates as 'Percival, the Story of the Grail'), an unfinished poem written sometime between 1181 and 1190.

25,000

The number of lines

in Wolfram von

Eschenbach's

Parzival poem

Chrétien credits a source book, but the original work remains a mystery.

His fantastical yarn sees Percival

– one of King Arthur's knights –
visit the realm of the Fisher King
(the last in a line of men entrusted
with the keeping of the Grail).

There, he beholds several revered items, including a *graal* ('grail') – an

elaborate bowl from which the King eats a communion wafer. Although the Grail is more prop than main player in this poem, it inspired other writers to develop the concept.



In Joseph d'Arimathie, written between 1191 and 1202, fellow Frenchman Robert de Boron fused the Holy Chalice used at the Last Supper, and the Holy Grail, a vessel containing Jesus's blood. Joseph of Arimathea is cast as the protector of the Grail, the first of a long line of guardians that will include Percival.

In the early 13th century, German poet Wolfram von Eschenbach developed the story in *Parzival*, ('Percival'), an epic poem in which the hero embarks on a quest to recover the Grail. The Welsh romance *Peredur* continued the theme, but the story really took form in the Vulgate Cycle, a series of Arthurian legends written anonymously in the 13th century.

Two centuries later, Sir Thomas Malory translated these legends into English in *Le Morte D'Arthur* and the sagas – especially the quest for the Grail – have enjoyed waves of popularity ever since, being retold by a colourful collection of raconteurs from Wagner and Tennyson through to Monty Python, Spielberg and Dan Brown. But is there any fact amongst all the fantasy?

Many people contend that there are actually two vessels at stake here, and two separate stories. The Holy Chalice is the cup that was used by Jesus to serve wine at the Last Supper, while the Holy Grail was originally conceived as a bowl in which the blood of Christ was caught during or just after his crucifixion. In the popular stories originating in medieval times, which form part of the Arthurian saga, the two vessels were combined to become one and the same: the Holy Grail. Since Catholic theology maintains that consecrated wine used during mass actually becomes the blood of Christ, the fusion of the two concepts appears to have

been accepted – even encouraged – by the Church.

Although the authors of the Vulgate Cycle are unknown, it is, in essence, a morality tale in which the virginal and virtuous Galahad succeeds in a mission that was beyond his adulterous father, is cleansed of his earthly sins and ascends to heaven – so it was very possibly penned by clerics. By creating a direct link between Joseph of Arimathea and the Arthurian heroes, it also neatly ties the biblical story with England – something the country's Church happily exploited.

Whatever the objectives of the writers, their creation was immensely well received

by European nobility.
The epics came out as
the real-life drama of the
Crusades was happening,
and the sacred order
of the Knights Templar
played a starring role in
the protection of ancient
Christian sites and relics
in the Holy Land.

CELESTIAL BODY
French painter Henri FantinLatour gives the Grail the
Romantic touch
LEFT: Eucharist is a key rite in
Christian worship

2

THE GRAIL TRAIL

For centuries, explorers have chased the Grail's shadow all over the planet

Ithough most popular versions of the story ultimately point towards the chalice being transported to England, committed Grail hunters have chased the holy relic all over the world. Every perceived clue from ancient texts has been painstakingly pursued, while long-shot leads and far-fetched theories have led their followers to some fairly

unlikely corners.

Holy Chalice and the Holy Grail – with some stretching the realm of credibility much further than others. Having a semiplausible relic or a good miracle story

can generate a boom in tourism for otherwise out-of-the-way destinations. As the public's obsession with the Grail tale shows little sign of abating, it's become big business, right around the world...

The number of tourists that visit Rosslyn Chapel, Midlothian – which stars in *The* Da Vinci Code – annually

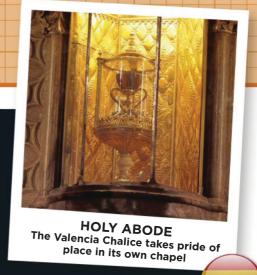
150,000

Over 200 churches and locations around the globe have laid claim to having current or historic possession of either or both the

BASILICA OF SAN ISIDORO IN LEON

Home to the Chalice of Doña Urraca, a jewelencrusted onyx goblet identified as the Holy Grail by author-researchers Margarita Torres and José Ortega del Rio in their 2014 book, *The Kings of the Grail*. The chalice has been in the Basilica since the 11th century, after apparently being transported to Cairo by Muslim travellers. It was later given to an emir on the Spanish coast who'd helped famine victims in Egypt, and passed to King Ferdinand I of Leon as a peace offering by an Andalusian ruler. Carbon dating suggests the chalice was made between 200 BC and AD 100. PW SP SP SP SP SP SP SP SP

CATTEDRALE DI SAN LORENZO ITALY A GLASS ACT House of the Genoa Chalice, once thought to be The Cathedral of made from pure emerald and a hot contender Genoa, where a for the Holy Grail, until it was transported glassy Grail to Paris after Napoleon conquered Italy contender resides and came back broken - revealing the 'emerald' was, in fact, green glass. This news would have come as a disappointment to the Genoese soldiers, who named it as their chief target when they defeated the Moors and sacked Almería in a ferocious conflict in 1147.



CATEDRALE DE VALENCIA SDAIN

The Valencia Chalice is housed in its very own consecrated chapel. The agate cup was reportedly taken by Saint Peter to Rome in the first century AD, and then to Huesca in Spain by Saint Lawrence in the third century. Some Spanish archaeologists say the cup was produced in a Palestinian or Egyptian workshop between the fourth century BC and the first century AD.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

NEW YORK CITY, USA

Current home of the Antioch Chalice, a silver-and-gold double-cup design ornament, touted as the Holy Chalice when it was recovered in Antioch, Turkey, just before World War I. The museum has always described this claim as 'ambitious' and the relic was recently outed as a standing lamp, not a chalice, believed to have been made in the sixth century AD.

OAK ISLANDNOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

One of the more creative claims has the Holy Grail stashed in a large pit on a 57-hectare island in Lunenburg County, on the south shore of Nova Scotia, where a group of exiled Knights Templar members are rumoured to have buried treasure, including the chalice and even the Ark of the Covenant. A Templar tomb has supposedly been found on the island.



7

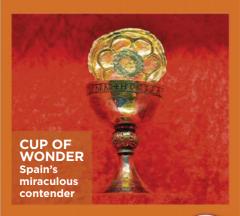
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O'CEBREIRO

GALICIA, SPAIN

This tiny town found itself suddenly magnified on the map, when, in the 14th century, a miracle happened in the local church, Santa Maria, causing the population to believe they had in their possession the Holy Grail. In the midst of the consecration, a peasant entered the church, emerging from a snowstorm raging outside. The priest scolded him for coming so far just for a little bread and wine and, at that moment, so the story goes, the bread and wine literally turned into flesh and blood.

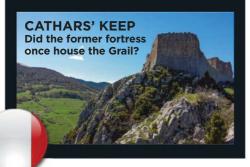


MONTSERRAT CATALONIA, SPAIN

The Benedictine monks of Montserrat themselves claim that this monastery is the real Castle of Munsalvaesche, where the Grail was entrusted to Titurel, the first Grail King, in Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival*.

CHÂTEAU DE MONTSEGUR LANGUEDOC, ERANCE

Another candidate for the Grail castle from von Eschenbach's *Parzival*, this ruined castle is a former Cathar stronghold – a Christian sect once believed to be keepers of the Grail. Shortly before this fortress was razed by a Catholic army in the 13th century, several Cathars allegedly escaped carrying a mysterious 'treasure' – which many believe to have been the Grail.



SACRED STASH SITE? Beneath Temple Mount in Jerusalem, some believe there could be a whole host of holy relics THE JERUSALEM CHALICE

In the seventh century AD, a Gaulish monk named Arculf recorded seeing a vessel he believed to be the Holy Chalice contained within a reliquary in a chapel near Jerusalem, between the basilica of Golgotha and the Martyrium. This is the earliest known first-hand report of the Grail after the crucifixion, and the only known mention of the Grail being seen in the Holy Land. The fate of the chalice he described is unknown. It has also been claimed that the Grail is hidden with other holy relics in the vast

underground sewer complex of Jerusalem, beneath the legendary Solomon's Temple.

SAN JUAN DE LA PEÑA

HUESCA, SPAIN

A monastery where the Holy Grail was allegedly sent for protection when the Iberian Peninsula was invaded by Muslim forces. It's thought to be the inspiration for 'Corbenic', the castle of the Holy Grail in the Vulgate Cycle.

PEEL CASTLE ISLE OF MAN

ISLE OF MAN
This stronghold is

another of several contenders for the real-life 'Corbenic' castle from the Vulgate Cycle and Thomas Malory's Le Morte D'Arthur. If so, it was the domain of the Fisher King and the birthplace of Sir Galahad.

ACCOKEEKMARYLAND, USA

It's a stretch, but local legend says that, in 1606 or 1607, a Jesuit priest travelled here aboard the ship of New World explorer Captain John Smith (right) with the Holy Grail in his carry-on luggage. Apparently he hid it in the Accokeek area, along the Potomac River.



OVER TO ALBION

The Grail myths are as much entwined with British folklore as international history...

have converted to

fter the crucifixion of Jesus, for reasons that remain unclear (and which may well owe more to poetic license and political and economic expediency than historical fact), the story of 18,000 the Holy Grail is quickly transplanted from the Holy Land to the green Arimathea is said to and pleasant land of England.

in a single day According to legends that have been doing the rounds for at least the last 800 years, the keeper of the Grail, Joseph of Arimathea, arrived in England in the first century AD. He crossed the Somerset Levels (then flooded) by boat to arrive at the foot of Glastonbury Tor on an island known in Arthurian mythology as Avalon.

At the foot of Wearyall Hill, just beneath the Tor, the tired missionary thrust his staff into the ground, and rested. In the morning, so the story goes, his staff had taken root and grown into an oriental thorn bush now known as the Glastonbury Thorn.

Joseph then went on to found Glastonbury Abbey, and set about converting the locals to Christianity - with a staggering success rate. By 600 AD, England had a Christian

king: Ethelbert. Meanwhile the Grail - which, according to some stories, was buried at the entrance to the

underworld in Glastonbury - became firmly interwoven into myths about King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table.

> Contemporary records mention none of this, though, and the story only became popular after the publication of Robert de Boron's fanciful poem Joseph d'Arimathie at the end of the 12th century. The area may have been a significant site for pre-Christian communities, but Glastonbury Abbey was almost

certainly established by Britons in the early seventh century.

GOOD PUBLICITY

However, stories connecting the dots between the site, Arthurian legend, the presence of the Holy Grail and miracles performed by 'blood relatives' of Jesus were all excellent marketing for the pilgrimage trade at Glastonbury. The local monks wholeheartedly endorsed the fables, right up until the Abbey was dissolved

A fourth-century-AD mosaic of Jesus from a Roman villa in Hinton St Mary, Dorset

ON THE TILES

WANDERING MESSIAH AND DID THOSE FEET IN **ANCIENT TIME?**

Another legend claims that Jesus himself travelled to Britain when he was a child or teenager, accompanying his uncle, Joseph of Arimathea, who was here to source tin. He is said to have visited Penzance. Falmouth. St Just in Roseland and Looe, all in Cornwall. as well as Glastonbury in Somerset. The idea was popularised in a poem by William Blake in the early 19th century, titled And did those Feet in Ancient Time and, 100 years later, it was made anthemically famous in the hymn Jerusalem with music by Sir Hubert Parry.

Britain had a strong druid presence at the time, and was a centre of learning, and it's been speculated that the young Jesus came to further his education. The journey was certainly possible - the Romans were travelling back and forth - and almost nothing is known about Jesus's life between the ages of 12 and 30, the so-called 'silent' or 'lost years of Christ'. However, there's little in the way of proof that this ever happened, and such stories were encouraged in the medieval period, when abbeys made a good business from religious pilgrimages.

in 1539, during the English Reformation. An early example of this can be seen when, in 1184, a fire destroyed most of the monastic buildings at Glastonbury. A few years later, around the time Joseph d'Arimathie was published, King Arthur and Queen Guinevere's tomb was miraculously discovered in the cemetery. There was a spike in pilgrimage traffic and the funds needed to rebuild the Abbey.

GRAIL AT GLASTO Joseph of Arimathea hides the Grail near **Glastonbury Tor** Given his role in looking fitting that Joseph was named patron saint of funeral directors.

ORIGINAL GRAIL MASTER WHO WAS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA?

According to all four gospels of the Bible and the Acts of Pilate, Joseph of Arimathea was a wealthy citizen of Judea and secret disciple of Christ who, after the crucifixion, recovered Jesus's body and laid it to rest in his own pre-prepared tomb. He is also thought to be Jesus's uncle (or great uncle), which would have obliged him to deal with his nephew's corpse (Jesus's father, Joseph, is presumed

dead by this time). His actions apparently so upset the Jewish elders, however, that they imprisoned him. He quickly escaped, later claiming he was aided and abetted by an apparition of Jesus.

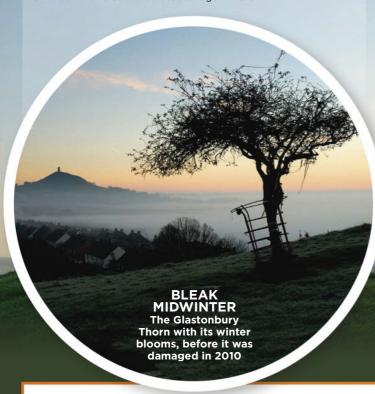
Some 1,200 years later, French writer Robert de Boron resurrected the character and elaborated on this scenario in his poem Joseph d'Arimathie. In it, he depicts the hero being given the Holy Grail by Jesus, after which he becomes its custodian. For unknown reasons, Joseph sends the Holy Grail with some of his followers to Glastonbury in Britain, where it becomes embedded in the Arthurian sagas. Some stories have Joseph himself travelling to Britain, establishing Christianity on the island before it had even taken hold in Rome, while others cast his son Josephus in this role. There are also claims that King Arthur and Sir Galahad were direct descendants of Joseph.

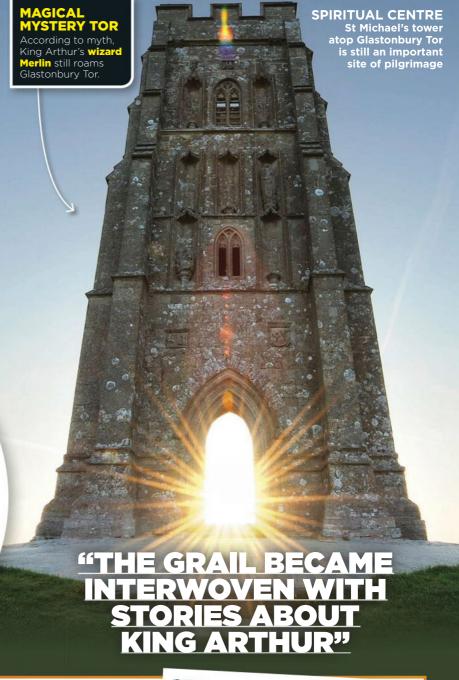
CROWNING THORN

The legendary Glastonbury Thorn, or *Crataegus monogyna* 'Biflora', which supposedly took root from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea, is a variety of hawthorn found around Glastonbury and Somerset. Unusually for hawthorns, it flowers twice a year – in winter and spring – or, if you want to bend its branches around Christian symbolism, Christmas and Easter.

Since the mid-16th century, a blossom from the specimen in the churchyard of St John's Church, Glastonbury, has been sent to the reigning monarch at Christmastime, and is traditionally used to decorate the royal breakfast table over the festive period.

The 'original' Glastonbury Thorn at Wearyall Hill, was hacked down and burned as a relic of superstition by Cromwellian troops during the British Civil Wars. Another tree subsequently planted on the hill suffered deliberate damage in 2010.





CUP OF LIFE

THE NANTEOS CUP

In the early 1900s, speculation was rife that the Holy Grail was sitting in a mansion in Wales, in the shape of the Nanteos Cup, a vessel made of olive wood or wych elm, which was believed to possess healing properties that could benefit anyone who drank from it.

Legend has it that, having been brought to England by Joseph of Arimathea, the cup was transferred from Glastonbury to Wales by monks during the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII. Initially it was taken to Strata Florida (known in Welsh as Ystrad Fflur), a grand Cistercian monastery, but was later transported to Nanteos Mansion, where it was displayed and made available to people in need of its healing powers. Evidently people not only drank from it, but also nibbled at the sides to get the full benefit.

In 1977, while the cup was on display at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, specialists from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales examined the relic and concluded that it dated from the late Middle Ages, which rather ruined its credentials as a possible Grail contender.

This didn't do much to dampen demand for its services, however. Ownership of the cup eventually passed on to a family in Herefordshire, who kept it in a bank vault. While on loan to a person who was in hospital – seeking more mainstream medical assistance – in 2014, the cup was stolen. A year later, in June of this year, the cup reappeared, in circumstances almost as mysterious as those that surround its disappearance.



4

A GOOD STORY

From medieval poems to modern action movies, the Grail has provided centuries of entertainment

or two millennia, the legend of the Holy Grail has been reported and contorted by imaginative poets, painters, writers, comedians and filmmakers – to such an extent that the small number of known facts have become increasingly hard to sift from an overwhelming mountain of speculative or purely artistic ideas.

Amateur historians and professional authors have gone off on wild tangents, generating countless pseudo-historical books masquerading as seriously researched non-fiction. Indeed, a vast amount of flimsy and fantastical evidence has been reported as fact to support questionable theories. As a result, the Grail story has assumed a life of its own – one that constantly plays out on the pages of books and websites, and on TV and cinema screens – and each generation consumes a new version of it.

20TH-CENTURY STYLE THE QUEST ON SCREEN

The Grail has been quested after on big and little screens since technology made it possible, but most people will recall the story from at least one of three successful cinematic renditions...



"THE GRAIL IS A POETIC INVENTION, AND SO WILL NEVER BE FOUND, ANY MORE THAN YOU WILL FIND HARRY POTTER'S GOLDEN SNITCH"

Richard Barber, author of Holy Grail - The History of a Legend

EXCALIBUR (1981), was directed by John
Boorman and starred Nigel Terry, Helen Mirren,
Patrick Stewart and Liam Neeson, among many
others. An action-packed adventure fantasy, it
follows the story of King Arthur, from the moment
he pulls the sword from the stone, to the quest for
the Grail (via Guinevere and Lancelot's affair). The
film, in contrast to most of the medieval literature,
has Percival retrieve the Grail for an ailing Arthur,
who sips from it and is restored to health.

474 million

BACK IN THE LIMELIGHT VICTORIAN REVIVALISM

During the deeply religious fervour of the Victorian era, medievalism was the all the rage and yarns from the Middle Ages, such as Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur*, were constantly being reprinted and consumed by a public hungry for tales of chivalry and salvation.

The quest for the Holy Grail was a recurring theme across the arts throughout the age, but everything was based on the medieval myth, rather than known facts and historical events.

Painters began to depict scenes from Arthurian legends, especially members of the ever-earnest Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. When commissioned to decorate Oxford University's new union building, founder of the Brotherhood Dante Gabriel Rossetti used the Holy Grail as his central theme – thus seeding an awareness and interest in the subject in the fertile minds of future generations of scholars. It was a theme that Rossetti would return to numerous times in his watercolour paintings.

Over several decades, the pre-eminent poet of the era, Alfred Lord Tennyson (Poet Laureate for 40 years during Victoria's reign), published the epic Idylls of the King, a cycle of twelve narrative poems that retell the legend of King Arthur and his knights – including, of course, the quest for the Grail. These immensely popular poems were dedicated to the late Prince Albert.

William Morris, one of the most significant cultural figures of the era whose talents spanned everything from poetry to interior design, was also acutely interested in the sagas. He wrote verses about the Holy Chalice, and collaborated with Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones to produce vast tapestries depicting the quest for the Grail, which were hung on the walls of the wealthiest businessmen of the industrial age.

THE CARPET TREATMENT
Galahad's victory is recorded in a
tapestry by William Morris, John Henry
Dearle and Edward Burne-Jones



MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL (1975), was the

Python posse's first foray into full-length feature films and it is a gloriously ridiculous romp through the Arthurian sagas, with Graham Chapman in the lead role. As the hapless knights search for the Holy Grail they face various challenges and dangers, not least a killer rabbit.

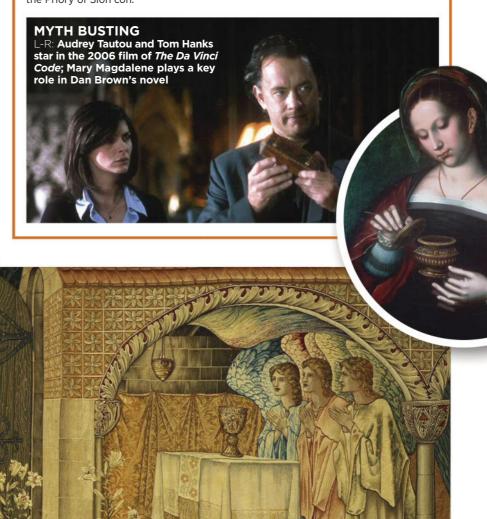
INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE (1989), the third of Steven Spielberg's successful series of movies starring Harrison Ford as a swashbuckling archaeologist, sees Indy in action trying to rescue his father (Sean Connery). He then needs to find the Holy Grail before the Nazis get hold of it and use it to achieve world domination. Sound stupid? You might be surprised how close some of the plot elements are to the truth – turn the page for more.



THE DA VINCI CODE

Few modern novels have generated as much commercial success – nor provoked such controversy – as Dan Brown's page-turning take on the Grail tale, which dramatically unfolds through the vehicle of a detective story. In the murder mystery book published in 2003, Brown explores the idea that the Holy Grail was not a physical chalice, but a woman – Mary Magdalene – who bore Jesus children and established a bloodline that continues today. He also portrays the secretive and controversial Catholic institute *Opus Dei* in a

murderous light, and gives credence to a conspiracy theory about the Priory of Sion – the subject of one of the world's biggest hoaxes, which was perpetrated in the sixties, when Frenchman Pierre Plantard sought to show that the Merovingian kings of France were directly descended from Jesus. Brown's novel was lapped up by conspiracy theorists the world over, but widely and vigorously criticised for its historical and factual inaccuracies. Many of the ideas in the novel had been expounded before, in books such as *The Templar Revelation* (1997) by Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince, and *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* (1982) by Michael Baigent, Henry Lincoln and Richard Leigh. The latter is a pseudo-history book, which has also been roundly rejected by historians for being based on various mistruths, including the Priory of Sion con.



THE BIG PICTURE

This vast Victorian tapestry, named 'The Achievement of the Grail' measures 2.4 metres high by nearly **7 metres long**. It is currently on display in the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

HEIL GRAIL!

The extraordinary story of the Nazi Grail hunters

ow do you inject a bit more historical surrealism into a story already heady with symbolism, intrigue and far-fetched fantasy? Simple - you introduce one of the most powerful men in Nazi Germany into the plot.

Heinrich Himmler, the eccentric head of the SS, had a lifelong interest in mysticism and the occult. A former chicken farmer, by the late thirties, he'd worked his way through the Nazi machine to become one of Hitler's top men (although the Nazi Führer regarded Himmler's mystical beliefs as "nonsense").

Himmler ran the SS as if it was an order of the Teutonic Knights, and dedicated serious resources to pursuing ancient myths and

movie, discarded for being too over-the-top. They include a search for the lost city of Atlantis and an expedition (sanctioned by Himmler in 1937) to prove early Aryans had conquered swathes of Asia in 2000 BC, and that Buddha was from an Aryan offshoot of the Nordic race. Himmler further believed that Jesus wasn't a Jew, and that he too had Aryan blood.

GERMANIC ROOTS

Unsurprisingly, the legend of the Holy Grail and its alleged powers piqued his interest, especially since a seminal text that fostered the myth in medieval times was penned by a German. Not only that, but Wolfram von Eschenbach's Parzival

5,000

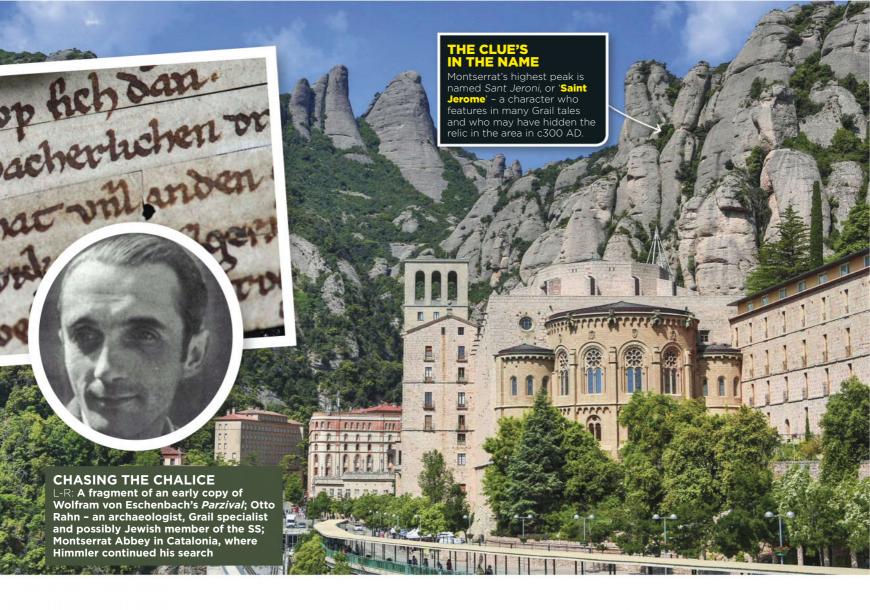
of Rahn's second book that Himmler had printed and sent to the Nazi elite

knowledge and a passion for the subject. And that's when Otto Rahn entered stage left.

Parcifal der In
Parcifal der In
en begande w
Den retraen pl

Rahn was a German archaeologist already obsessed with the Grail, the whereabouts of which he was trying to





Castle in France's Languedoc region, once a stronghold for the Cathars – a medieval Christian sect that was wiped out by Catholic forces in 1244. Before their annihilation, three Cathar monks reputedly escaped, taking with

FIT FOR THE GRAIL
The room in Wewelsburg
Castle in which Himmler may
have intended to store the
sacred artefact

them a bag containing a mysterious treasure. Was this the Grail? Rahn reckoned so.

Throughout the summer of 1931, Rahn had scoured the region around Montségur, discovering a complex of caves used by the Cathars as an underground cathedral. Unfazed by his failure to find the chalice itself, he wrote a book called *Crusade Against the Grail*, outlining his theory. And that's when he came to the attention of the Reichsführer-SS.

Himmler offered him 1,000 reichsmarks a month to write a second book. Perhaps naively unaware that this sinister agreement implicitly required him to locate a relic that had been missing for 2,000 years, Rahn agreed, joined the SS and went on the payroll. "What was I supposed to do?" he apparently said to a friend later, "Turn Himmler down?"

HOPEFUL HIMMLER

Himmler had such faith that his man would produce the goods that he prepared a plinth in the basement of Wewelsburg (a Renaissance castle in Westphalia) for the Grail's arrival. Sadly for Rahn, the Grail remained elusive. In its absence he desperately penned a new tome, further explaining his quest: Lucifer's Court: A Heretic's Journey in Search of the Light Bringers.

It was full of pseudo-scientific waffle and overly ornate mystical references, which

Himmler lapped up. However, when Rahn read the proofs, he discovered an anti-Semitic passage had been inserted. And here's the twist – Rahn is believed to have been Jewish. And he was certainly openly homosexual.

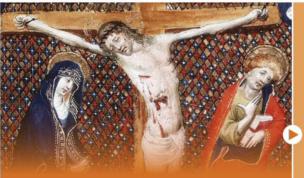
His sexuality caused him to fall foul of his SS overlords, but it was his rude awakening to the true nature of the Nazi regime that sealed his fate. For an indiscretion he was sentenced to serve three months as a guard at Dachau concentration camp, an experience that broke him. After attempting to resign from the SS – never really an option – he became aware that Gestapo assassins were preparing to kill him. In 1939, the 34-year-old archaeologist climbed high into the Tyrol Mountains in Austria, swallowed poison and died. His legacy was to inspire the character of Indiana Jones.

A year later, Himmler continued the mission himself, visiting Montserrat Abbey near Barcelona – another contender for "the marvellous castle of Montsalvat in the Pyrenees" described in *Parsifal*. There, he interviewed monks about the possible whereabouts of the Holy Grail, but he left disappointed.

By 1943, Himmler was too busy (as Reichsführer-SS, Chief of German Police, Minister of the Interior and head architect of the Holocaust) to continue chasing holy relics, and one of the more bizarre chapters in the quest for the Grail was over.

TIMELINE The Quest for

The search that has sprawled across two millennia and numerous countries,



c30-33 AD

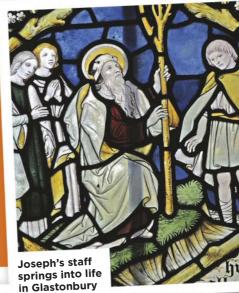
Jesus is crucified in Golgotha (aka Calvary), outside the Old City of Jerusalem. Joseph of Arimathea, who was possibly Jesus's uncle, is said to have recovered the body, collecting Christ's blood in a vessel - the Holy Grail.

AD 80-100

Matthew, Mark and Luke all write about the Holy Chalice from the Last Supper, and all four of the Gospels reference the deeds of Joseph of Arimathea.

FIRST CENTURY AD

At an unknown date, Joseph of Arimathea allegedly travels to England, specifically to Glastonbury. He has with him the Holy Grail, which he buries, and a staff, which he places in the ground where it sprouts into the Glastonbury Thorn.





1485

Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur* is published, making the legend of the Grail and the Arthurian saga available in English for the first time.

1312

The Knights
Templar is officially
disbanded by Pope
Clement (pictured)
under pressure
from King Philip IV
of France. Jacques
de Molay and other
Knights Templar
leaders are later
burnt at the stake,
but rumours rise
that some knights
managed to
escape, taking the
Grail to safety.



1244

The Cathars, a medieval Christian sect believed to have connections to the Holy Grail, are utterly destroyed by Catholic forces in Montségur Castle in France's Languedoc region. Three Cathars allegedly escape with the Grail.



Glastonbury Abbey is dissolved during the English Reformation and the last abbot, Richard Whiting, is hanged, drawn and quartered on Glastonbury Tor. The monks scatter, some allegedly taking the Holy Grail with them.



1642-51

During the
British Civil Wars,
Parliamentarians cut
down and burn the
'original' Glastonbury
Thorn because it is a
relic of superstition.

1816-85

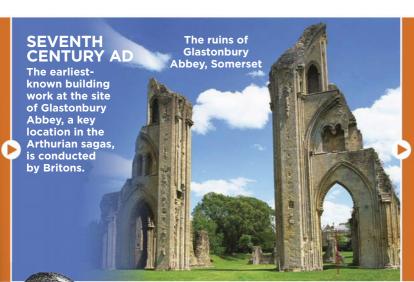
Medievalism becomes uber trendy and there's a huge upsurge of interest in Arthurian legends and the quest for the Grail. Alfred, Lord Tennyson pens a cycle of 12 poems called Idylls of the King – an epic retelling of the story of Arthur and the Grail – while German composer Wagner produces Parsifal, an opera about the Arthurian knight Parzival (Percival) and his quest for the Holy Grail.

Tennyson's hero on his quest for the Grail



the Grail

and has consumed a colourful collection of characters

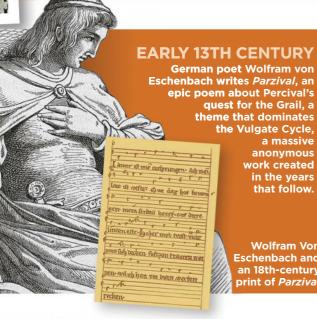


Hugues de Payens from Troyes, France, founds the Knights Templar and becomes the **Grand Master of** the order.



1181-90

French poet Chrétien de Troyes writes Perceval, le Conte du Graal ('Percival, the Story of the Grail'), introducing the Grail to the Arthurian cycle.



1191-1202

Robert de Boron is the first to fuse the Holy Chalice (used at the Last Supper) and the Holy Grail (the vessel containing Jesus's blood), while portraying the title original guardian of the Grail.

1191

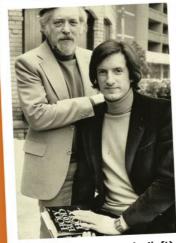
After a devastating fire ruins Glastonbury Abbey, the tomb of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere is allegedly discovered in its cemetery.



1935-40

Himmler (below) instigates a hunt for the Grail, led by Rahn (who was possibly Jewish)





a massive

anonymous

in the years that follow.

Eschenbach and an 18th-century print of *Parzival*

work created

Authors Henry Lincoln (left) and Michael Baigent

1982

The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and **Henry Lincoln is** published. It connects the Knights Templar and Rosslyn Chapel in Midlothian to the Holy Grail, and expounds the theory that Jesus married Mary Magdalene and their bloodline is still existent. The book is widely criticised by historians.

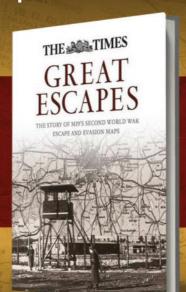
2003

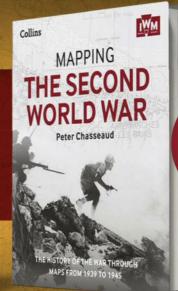
Drawing on various theories about the Grail being connected to the womb of Mary Magdalene and the bloodline of Jesus, author Dan Brown causes a controversy with his enormously popular novel The Da Vinci Code.



Delve into the secret world of the maps that changed history

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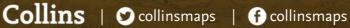




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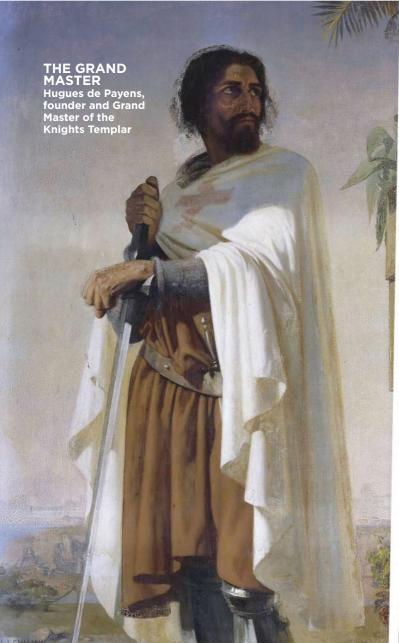


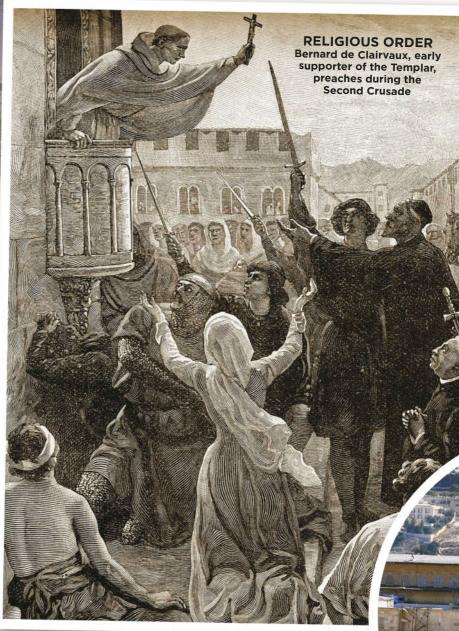
SOLDIERS OF CHRIST: THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

These possible guardians of the Grail rose from mysterious beginnings to a powerful political zenith, and their tale is shrouded in myth. Read on to discover the true story of the order of the Knights Templar...









rom humble beginnings, the members of the Knights
Templar established themselves as the protectors of pilgrims and earned a hardwon reputation as ferocious frontline fighters during the Crusades. Ultimately, however, they were abandoned by the Pope and violently snuffed from existence by a French King who was in their debt.

History and modern literature have scarcely been kinder, painting the Templar in shady hues and implicating it in sinister plots involving missing treasure and holy relics – including the Holy Grail. But who were these warriors, and what was their real role in the Grail tale?

PILGRIM PROTECTION

The Knights Templar was a Christian military order and one of the most feared combat forces in medieval times. The order was founded by a French knight, Hugues de Payens, on Christmas Day 1119, ostensibly to provide protection to vulnerable Christian pilgrims who were being

attacked and sometimes slaughtered by bandits while travelling to Jerusalem, recently captured during the First Crusade.

De Payens petitioned the newly installed Christian monarch of Jerusalem, King Baldwin II, for support, and the knights were duly gifted quarters in the royal palace

- in its first few years, when little is known about its activities - the knights may have discovered a variety of treasures and relics hidden beneath the Temple Mount, including the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy Grail.

Whatever the truth of these speculative theories, initially the Templars appeared

"THE BATTLING ABILITY OF THE TEMPLARS WAS LEGENDARY"

on the Temple Mount (in the captured Al-Aqsa Mosque). According to legend, the mosque is built atop the ruins of the sacred Temple of Solomon, and from this the order took its name: the Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon – or the Knights Templar for short.

Many of the myths that swirl around the Knights Templar originate from suspicions that

poor by name and poor by nature, and they were forced to rely on charity to survive. Their emblem shows two knights on one horse – symbolising the poverty of the order.

However, they soon attracted heavyweight support from Bernard de Clairvaux, a leading Church figure destined to become a saint, and the nephew of one of the order's nine founding knights. Once the Templar received papal





CONSPIRACY CENTRAL

The Templars have become the focal point of numerous secret – if not fictitious – scandalous plots...

So what were the original members of the start-up order doing during those early years when they occupied Temple Mount? Conspiracy theorists salivate at the thought of them digging around in the foundations of Al-Aqsa Mosque, amid the ancient and storied ruins of Solomon's Temple, and finding various relics.

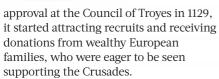
One tale – considered fanciful by most historians – has them discovering a duplicate copy of the Copper Scroll (a metal document discovered in the Dead Sea caves in 1952 and dated to c50-100 AD, which contains directions to stashed treasure). The theory claims the Templar quietly went around accumulating all this treasure in order to fund their order.

Among other things, they are rumoured to have held the Turin Shroud for a period of years when it was unaccounted for, and to have had kept the mummified severed head of St John the Baptist in their Temple Mount headquarters.

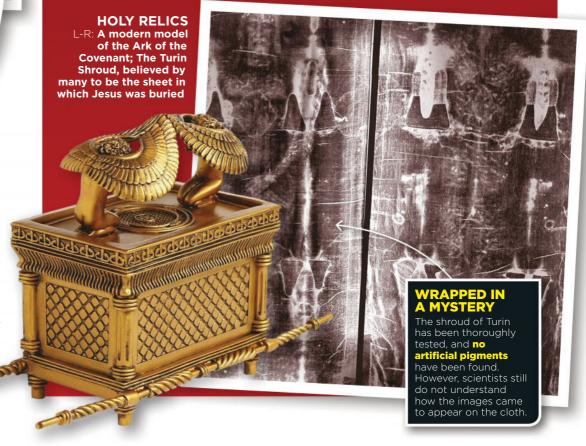
Most popular theories about the Templars involvement with the Holy Grail can be traced to a series of muchdisputed claims in the pseudo-history book *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* (1982), by Michael Baigent, Richard

Leigh, and Henry Lincoln. The authors suggest that, around 1307, when the Knights Templar was being suppressed. members of the order took the Holy Grail to Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland - a theme that appears in a slightly different version in Dan Brown's immensely popular novel, The Da Vinci Code (2003). Another line of thought in the book has the escaping Templars sailing to the New World in their own fleet of ships, following old Viking routes. This theory caused a wave of excitement in North America, spawning the wildly optimistic claim that the Holy Grail could be buried on Oak Island in Nova Scotia.

In *The Sign and the Seal* (1992), yet another enormously speculative book that was panned by serious historians, author Graham Hancock not only claims that the Holy Grail and the Ark of the Covenant are one and the same thing, but also states that the Knights Templar pursued the lost Ark-come-Grail to Ethiopia. He maintains the Catholic Church's fears about the Templars acquiring the power of the Ark were one of the main reasons Pope Clement V agreed to help stamp them out.



With the influx of money, the order became increasingly tooled and trained up. Regardless of their rank in the outside world, prospective Templar Knights entered the order as squires-in-training. If they displayed skill and mastered the requisite fighting techniques, they may become a knight after several years.



THE BIG STORY **LEGEND OF** THE HOLY GRAIL

By the time the Second Crusade began, the battling ability of the Templars was legendary - far surpassing other knights of the age. They fought on the frontline and were employed for their shock-and-awe impact. Squadrons of 30 Templars would charge into battle and break the enemy's ranks, with each individual knight's flanks The size of Saladin's protected by their sergeant on one army which, in 1177, was side and squire on the other, with beaten by 500 Templar mercenary bowmen on either side of them.

NEVER SURRENDER

When on the battlefield, members of the order were not permitted to surrender unless the Templar flag had fallen and, even then, they should make every attempt to join other Christian orders (such as the Knights Hospitaller) before leaving the fight. Death in combat was an honour - guaranteeing the knight a place in heaven - and to fall was to become a martyr to the faith, symbolised by the order's distinctive red cross.

Knights were expected to be as disciplined off the battlefield as they were on it. They lived (and died) according to the Latin Rule, a strict code of conduct devised by the Templar's founder and

first Grand Master, de Payens, and its key patron, de Clairvaux.

> The monastic-style laws prohibited knights from having any physical contact with women, even family members. They ate in total silence and could only take meat three times per week. Beyond their allotment of horses and weapons,

they retained no personal possessions and had no money.

Yet, alongside their military operations, the Templars developed a sophisticated financial wing, which facilitated an early form of banking. Pilgrims could deposit their wealth with non-combatant Templars before leaving Europe and they were issued with a credit note - like a traveller's cheque - which could be cashed in the Holy Land. This meant they didn't need to transport their valuables through the

ECURITY SERVICE oup of pilgrims are escorted Jerusalem by members of **Knights Templars**

wilder parts of Outremer (the name given to lands taken during the First Crusade).

Noblemen joining the Crusades would place their belongings into the trust of the Templars while they were gone. The order also operated farms, vineyards and many other profitable industries. The Templar quickly accumulated some serious wealth, controlled large assets - such as a fleet of ships - and owned a huge amount of land, including the entire island of Cyprus. The Templar was also in the business of

"THEY NOW HAD A STANDING ARMY OF SUPER SOLDIERS WITH NO ONE TO FIGHT."

26,000

Knights and a few

thousand infantry

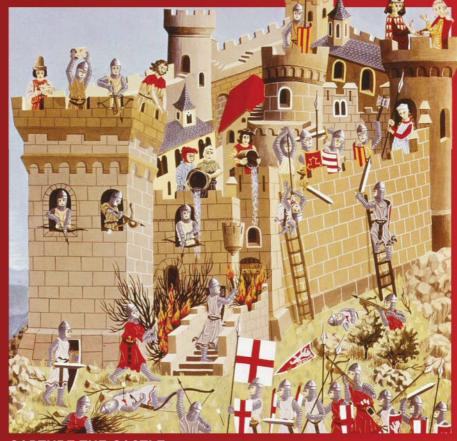
THE CATHARS

The movement that threatened the status quo, and had to go

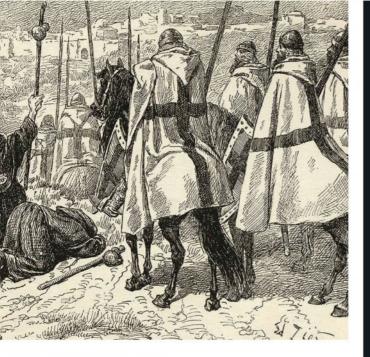
A religious group with mysterious origins, the Cathars began to appear in Europe in the 11th century. Variously described as a Christian sect and a bunch of out-and-out heretics, they held dualist and gnostic beliefs that were dangerously egalitarian and radical for the time. They certainly upset the Catholic establishment and, in 1209, Pope Innocent III initiated a military campaign to obliterate them - an endeavour that would last several decades.

The Cathars became concentrated in the Languedoc region in the south of France, with hundreds gathering at the mountain-top fortress of Montségur. This was the scene of a massacre in 1244, when the group was effectively destroyed by a Catholic force, and some 200 Cathar Perfects (noncombatants) were burned alive in an enormous pyre at the foot of the castle.

However, shortly before the fall of the fortress, several Cathars allegedly slipped through the attackers' lines to carry away a mysterious treasure. The exact nature of this treasure remains unknown, and there has been much speculation - heavily fuelled by a scene in Wagner's Parsifal - that it was the Holy Grail.



CAPTURE THE CASTLE The Cathar stronghold at Montségur is razed to the ground in this 20th-century interpretation of a medieval manuscript



money lending and, as would prove fatal, one of its clients was the King of France.

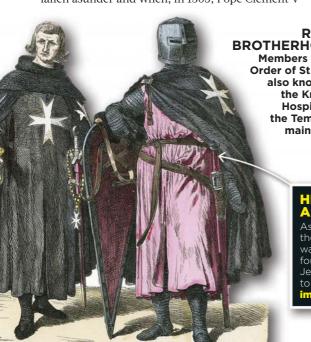
The burgeoning success and power of the order inevitably earned it enemies, not least among rival orders such as the Hospitallers. The Templars' secretive and ritualistic traditions - including their initiation rites - raised the suspicions and hackles of outsiders. Most dangerous of all though, was the fact that some very powerful people were now in their debt.

CHANGE OF FORTUNE

The tide eventually turned against the Crusaders when, in 1187, Jerusalem was recaptured by Muslim forces under Saladin. The Templars lost their headquarters, were forced to temporarily relocate to Cyprus, and saw their fortunes take a dive.

Their original raison d'être was evaporating but, by this stage, the Templars had their lances in so many pies that they were part of the fabric of European society, with property and business interests all over the continent. They also had a standing army of super soldiers with no one to fight, and there were mutterings about the formation of a monastic state (something the Teutonic Knights achieved in Prussia and the Knights Hospitaller were attempting on Rhodes).

Relations between the Templars and the Hospitallers had become frayed, as the objectives of the Crusades had fallen asunder and when, in 1305, Pope Clement V



RIVAL BROTHERHOOD Members of the Order of St John, also known as the Knights Hospitaller. the Templars' main rivals

As the name suggests was born out of a hospital founded in 11th-century Jerusalem, created to care for sick and impoverished pilg

CLOTHES MAKETH THE KNIGHT

The men of the Knights Templar had a strict dress code...

WHITE MANTLE

From the launch of the Second Crusade in 1147, Templar Knights wore a white **surcoat** (outer layer) emblazoned with a red cross, which was a symbol of martyrdom.

The Knights also wore a white mantle (cloak) also with a red cross. The sergeants wore a black tunic with a red cross on the front and a black or brown mantle. The strict rules of the order stated that Templar Knights had to wear their mantle at all times, and they were forbidden to eat or drink unless they were wearing it.

Although not explicitly demanded by the rules of the order, it was customary for the knights of the order to wear long and prominent beards.

By the time of the Second Crusade, the Templar Knights were fearsomely wellequipped, and may have fought carrying a lance, sword, dagger and shield.

For battle, the knights donned a hauberk - a suit of mail with plates of steel strategically attached on the chest, back, shoulders and knees.

Each knight was given three horses - one each for himself, his sergeant and his squire.

SWORD







On Friday 13 October 1307, he arranged the arrest of Templar Grand Master Jacques de Molay and other senior members of the order. Under torture they admitted various sins, including homosexuality, idol worship and spitting on the cross. They later recanted their confessions but, in 1310, Philip had several Templars burnt at the stake in Paris.

FIRE AND CHAOS

Under huge pressure from
Philip, Pope Clement V dissolved
the Knights Templar in 1312,
transferring their assets to the
Hospitallers. De Molay and another
prominent Templar – Geoffroi de
Charney, Preceptor of Normandy – were
burned alive in Paris on 18 March 1314, leaving
the order leaderless and in disarray. Some were
arrested, others shaved their beards and fled,
while still more joined the ranks of their former
rivals, the Hospitallers.

The estimated size of the Knights Templar in 1307, when Philip IV of France turned on them

alternate of the Knights Templar in 1307, when Philip IV of France turned on them

On the in 1307, when Philip IV of France turned on them

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The sudden disappearance of a force that had been ultra powerful for two centuries has provoked

widespread suspicion, and numerous alternative theories have been suggested.

One intriguing thesis, argued in novel form by Grigor Fedan in *The Templars, Two Kings* and a Pope (an excellently researched book that nevertheless joins some fairly far-fetched dots), claims that the coup was achieved with the acquiescence of a sub-section of the Templars called the Brotherhood, who formed the core of the order. Like the founders of the movement (according to Fedan), these guys were gnostics and they orchestrated a mass migration of Knights Templar to Scotland and Switzerland, taking with them the Holy Grail, which wasn't a chalice, but a gospel written by Jesus himself. •

GET HOOKED

Your quest for the Grail doesn't end here, there's plenty more to see, read, do and watch

FOLLOW THE GRAIL TRAIL



▲ GLASTONBURY

Take yourself on a tour of the town at the centre of the English chapter of the Grail tale, with a wonder around Glastonbury. Check out the Glastonbury Thorn on Wearyall Hill, climb the tor and explore the abbey. Search at: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

ALSO VISIT

- Montségur Castle, France www.montsegur.fr
- Rosslyn Chapel, Midlothian www.rosslynchapel.org.uk

BOOKS



THE HOLY GRAIL: THE HISTORY OF A LEGEND (2004)

by Richard Barber
A cool-headed analysis of the legend, minus any mystic hysteria and pseudo-history.



HIMMLER'S CRUSADE: THE NAZI EXPEDITION TO FIND THE ORIGINS OF THE ARYAN RACE (2005)

by Christopher Hale
This compelling read sheds new
light on the occult side of Heinrich
Himmler's racial theories.

ALSO READ

- ► Parzival by Wolfram von Eschenbach
- ► Le Morte D'Arthur by Sir Thomas Malory
- ► The Desecrated Abbey (2007) by Montserrat Rico Góngora

ON SCREEN

THE REAL DA VINCI CODE (2005)

This Channel 4 documentary sees Tony Robinson pick apart Dan Brown's novel and other conspiracypedalling titles.



ALSO SEE

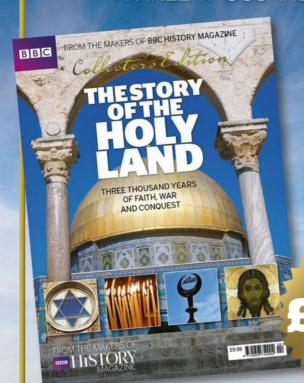
- ► Nazi Quest For The Holy Grail (2013) a documentary on Heinrich Himmler's more mystical projects
- ► Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975)



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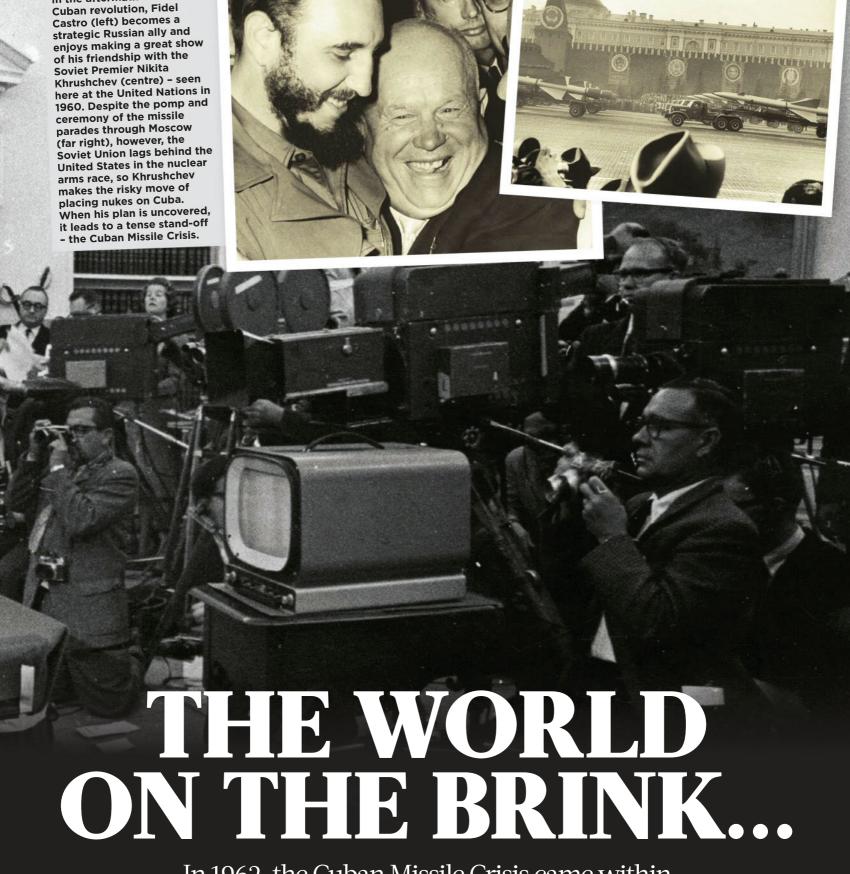


that have scarred the region

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COMRADES IN ARMS

In 1962, the Cuban Missile Crisis came within one decision of turning the Cold War hot – and plunging the world into nuclear war



IN PICTURES CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, 1962

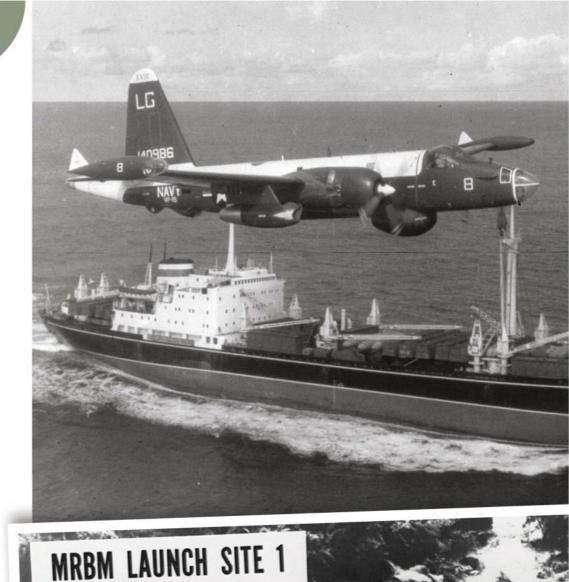
he world has never come closer to the absolute annihilation of a nuclear war than it did during October 1962. For 13 agonisingly tense days, the President of the United States, John F Kennedy, stood eyeball-to-eyeball with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, each with a finger hovering over launch buttons, in the Cold War's most dangerous episode: the Cuban Missile Crisis.

THIRTEEN DAYS

On 14 October 1962, an American U-2 spy plane flew over the Caribbean island of Cuba and captured hundreds of shocking photographs, clearly proving the presence of a Soviet ballistic missile and the construction of medium-range launching sites.

The Americans had been greatly concerned over Cuba and its Communist-leaning leader, Fidel Castro, since he seized power three years earlier and aligned with the Russians. Kennedy had attempted to oust him with the futile and humiliating 'Bay of Pigs' invasion in 1961, but this merely strengthened the relationship of the two Communist states, and gave Khrushchev a chance to level the nuclear playing field. As the United States had placed Jupiter missiles on the Soviet Union's doorstep in Turkey, Khrushchev retaliated by secretly sending weapons to Cuba, only 90 miles from the coast of Florida.

When shown the photographic evidence, Kennedy convened a special group of advisers, named the Executive Committee of the National Security Council (ExComm), and began discussing their response, from invasion to air strikes to secret deals. Though the weapons in Cuba did little to the 'missile gap' – the United States was still dominant – their proximity to American soil meant doing nothing was not







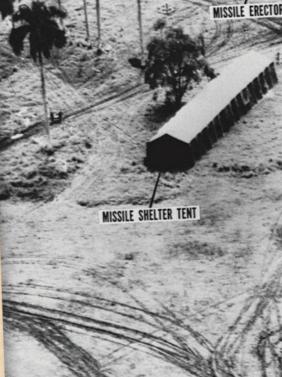
ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN

Throughout the crisis, JFK is in near-constant talks with a special advisory group, ExComm. The President relies on both the views of the 'hawks', who want military action, and the anti-war 'doves' - it is the Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara (far left), who vociferously supports a naval blockade.



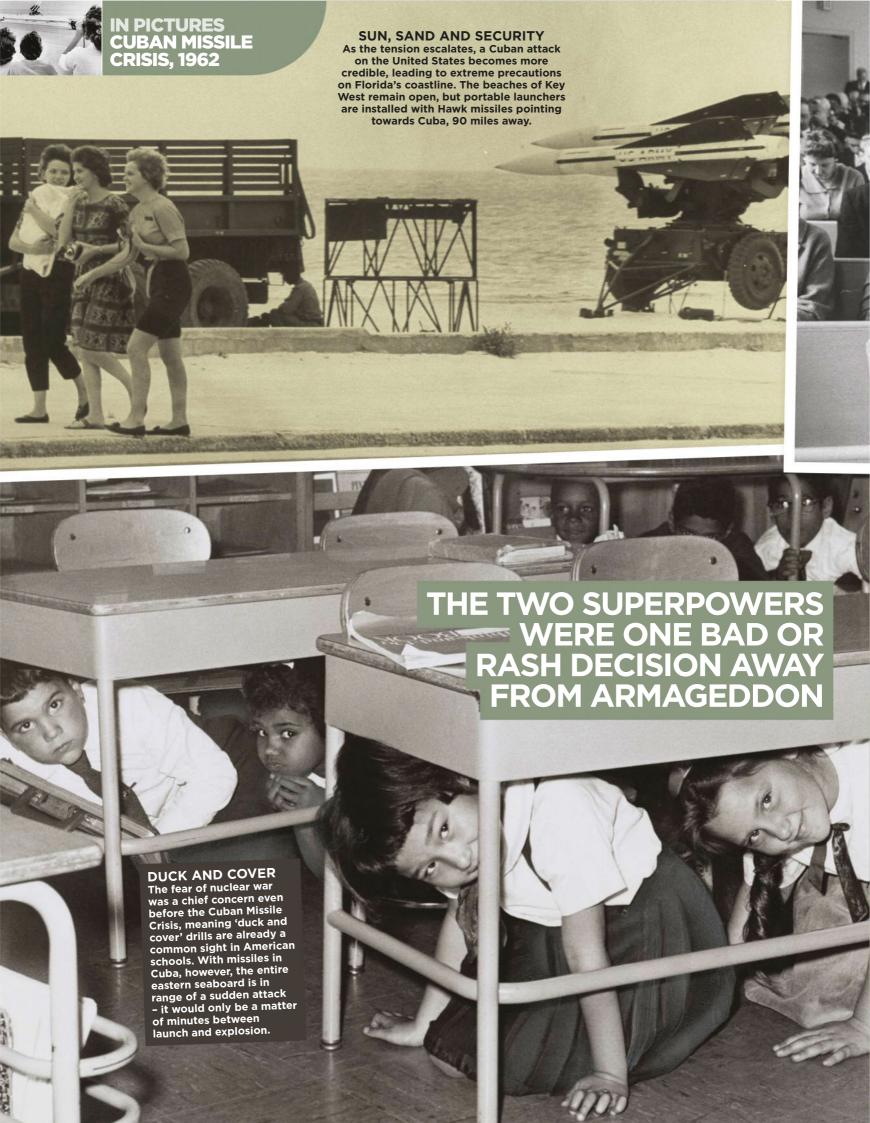
SAN CRISTOBAL, CUBA

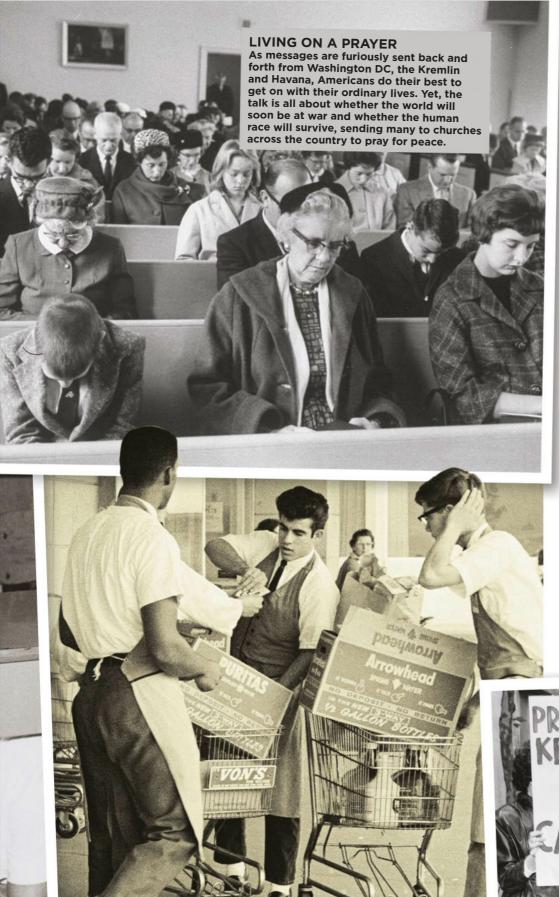
23 OCTOBER 1962



FUEL TANK TRAILERS







STOCKING THE SHELTERS

Almost exactly a year before the crisis,

Kennedy appeals to the American people to

build fallout shelters in their gardens. Not

everyone goes to such lengths, but there are

enough by October 1962 to clear many shops

of canned foods to make sure they have a healthy supply in the worst-case scenario. a likely option. ExComm deliberated for days before agreeing to a naval blockade, advocated by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, to prevent further delivery of nuclear weapon materials. Kennedy announced the "quarantine" ('blockade' sounded too war-mongering) on 22 October in a television address, in which he revealed the true dangers of the situation, condemned Khrushchev's "clandestine, reckless and provocative threat to world peace" and declared his intention to meet any Soviet aggression with military force. The two superpowers were now one bad or rash decision away from nuclear Armageddon.

So as the ring of American Navy ships was formed around Cuba, ExComm met constantly and Khrushchev contemplated his next move. Everyone else held their breath. Cold War fear during the 1950s had driven many to build fallout shelters in their gardens and practice 'duck-and-cover' as they lived under the pervading shadow of the bomb. But that was nothing compared to the atmosphere of panic fostered by the news (or lack of) from Cuba in the week following Kennedy's broadcast, which led to food, petrol and medical supplies being hoarded in readiness for, what seemed, the inevitable start of World War III.



WORLD PEACE, OR IN PIECES? A placard at a Women Strike for Peace gathering offers some simple, but wise, advice to the President as he works to diffuse the situation. This is just one of numerous protests across the world.



The tension peaked on 25 October. Firstly, the Russian tanker *Bucharest* became the first vessel not stopped at the blockade as it was thought not to carry nuclear materials and, the day after an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council, America's alert system was raised to DEFCON 2 (the highest it has ever been). Then two days later, a U-2 spy plane was shot down over Cuba, killing the pilot.

Yet, negotiations were continuing behind closed doors. Khrushchev sent a letter to Kennedy imploring him for an end to the crisis, offering to withdraw all missiles if the United States promised not to invade Cuba. Although a second, conflicting deal was sent the following day - demanding the removal of American missiles in Turkey before action in Cuba could be taken - diplomacy was, at last, prevailing. In a message taken to the Soviet Ambassador in Washington DC on 28 October, Kennedy agreed never to invade Cuba. He also secretly made a deal to dismantle the Jupiter missiles in Turkey anyway. Over the next few weeks, the Soviets kept their word and their ships sailed away from Cuba, under the watchful scrutiny of their American escorts.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was over, and the world stepped back from the brink. The Cold War was still decades from ending, and the arms race would only intensify, but the sternest test had been passed.

⊙

RED AND READY
Caught in the middle of the posturing and rhetoric of the superpowers are the people of Communist Cuba, who are anxious about an American invasion. Castro orders a general mobilisation to ensure that aircraft can be shot down with artillery similar to the gun on the Havana waterfront. When it looks like the Soviet Union is going to withdraw the missiles, an irate Castro sends Khrushchev a letter, dated 26 October, in which he seemingly urges for a pre-emptive nuclear strike.

THE SOLE CASUALTY

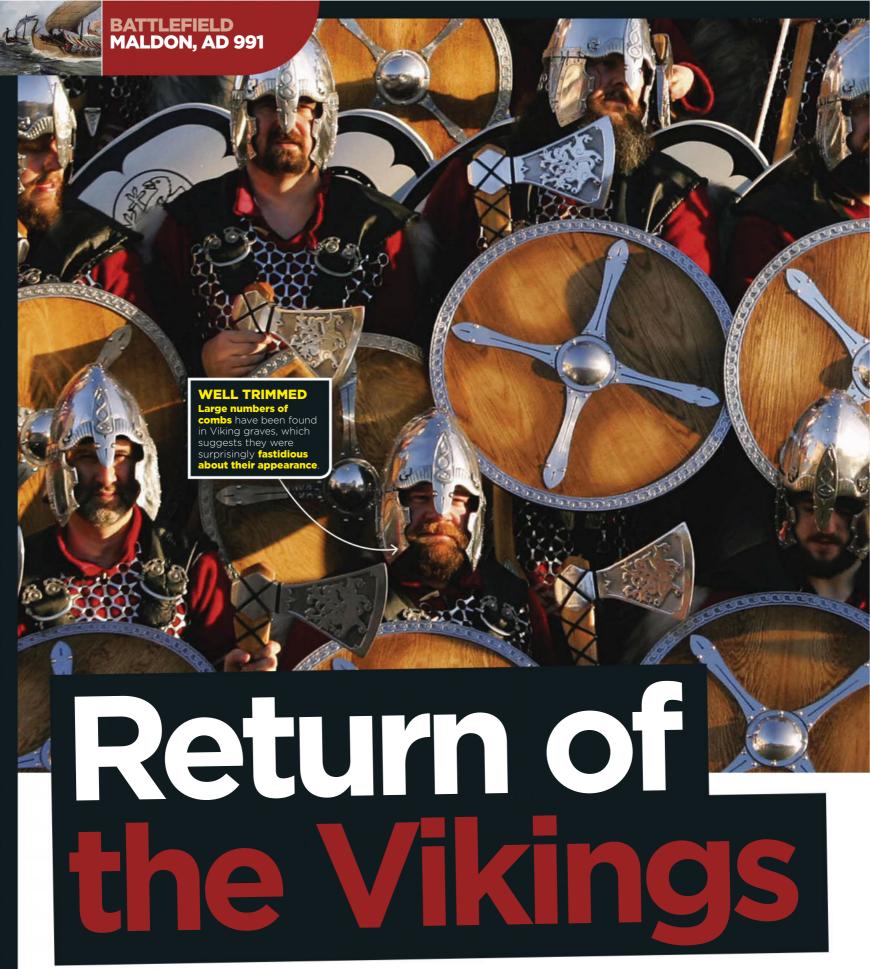
On 27 October, an American U-2 spy plane is shot down while making a reconnaissance flight over Cuba, exacerbating but not derailing diplomatic efforts to end the crisis. The pilot, Major Rudolf Anderson, is killed, making him the only combatant casualty of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

"WE'VE BEEN EYEBALL TO EYEBALL, AND I THINK THE OTHER FELLOW JUST BLINKED."

FIDEL CASTRO

US SECRETARY OF STATE, DEAN RUSK





With thousands of Viking raiders wreaking havoc along the coast of south-east England, a defensive army was assembled to deal with them on the banks of an Essex river. **Julian Humphrys** reports on the action...



lmost as soon as the fleet of Viking ships arrived in the **English Channel** in AD 991, its crew made clear they weren't on a goodwill mission. Within weeks, they had attacked and plundered Folkestone and Sandwich, and also paid an equally unwelcome visit to Ipswich. By early August, they had sailed up the Blackwater Estuary, and set up camp on Northey Island, where they were threatening the Essex town of Maldon. A prosperous spot with a royal mint, it's not surprising that

Maldon made a tempting target for the Scandinavian raiders.

We don't know for certain who led this Viking raiding force. It may have been Olaf Trygvasson, a Norwegian adventurer who made himself King of Norway, or it might have been the notorious warrior, Svein Forkbeard, King of Denmark. It may, in fact, have been both of them or even someone else but, whoever it was, the raiders presented a threat that couldn't be ignored. It fell to a veteran servant of King Æthelred called Ealdorman Brihtnoth to lead the English response. An 'ealdorman' was a type of noble, responsible

for the defence and government of a particular region, which in Brihtnoth's case was Essex.

MAN OF REPUTE

Brihtnoth was no spring chicken. He'd been married some 40 years, was instantly recognisable by his tall frame and his shock of snowwhite hair, and was a warrior of some repute. On 10 August, he and his troops arrived opposite Northey Island, which was connected to the mainland at low tide by a causeway. Part of his army was made up by his 'hearth troops' – loyal retainers who were given land in exchange for military service –

When

10 August AD 991

Where

Maldon, Essex

Why

English confront a Viking raiding force

Outcome

Viking victory

Losses

Both sides suffered losses and casualties on a great scale. The English force lost its leader, Brihtnoth while the numbers were made up by members of the Essex Fyrd, a form of local militia.

Most of what we believe happened next comes from an epic poem, The Battle of Maldon, penned shortly after the event. Having formed up his army in a wall of interlocking shields and ridden up and down the ranks to encourage his men and check their dispositions, Brihtnoth dismounted in the invading Viking and took up a position fleet that arrived in with his retainers in the Enalish the centre of the line.

The Vikings, too, made ready for battle but, for the time being at least, combat was impossible. The incoming tide had covered the causeway in nearly two metres of water. With nothing to do but wait for the water to ebb, the two sides passed the time in shouted negotiations. The Vikings offered to depart in return for a large sum of money; Brihtnoth refused.

BATTLE HOUR

Eventually, as the tide receded, the Vikings prepared to advance

across to the mainland, only to find the causeway blocked by a group of English warriors – the verse says just three: Wulfstan, Aelfhere and Maccus. The Vikings were unwilling to risk an all-out attack. Any attempt to fight their way across the causeway would have left them disorganised,

turning them into prime targets for an English

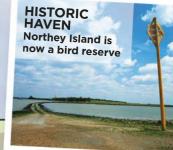
counter-attack, while a bid to cross elsewhere would have left them floundering in thick Essex mud.

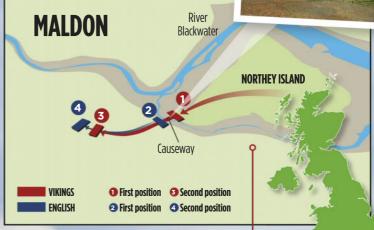
What happened next seems extraordinary.

Instead of trying to attack, the Vikings asked to be allowed to cross to the mainland unopposed and form up there for battle.
Brihtnoth agreed. Some writers have criticised him for giving up such an advantageous position and the poem does claim his decision was motivated by overconfidence. In reality, however, there was little else that Brihtnoth could have done. He was in no position to mount an attack of his own across the causeway and,

FIGHT SITE

Although there were many Viking and Anglo-Saxon clashes, most of them were not well documented, so their battlefields remain unknown. The fact that it's known, to a certain degree of accuracy, where the Maldon battle took place, makes the fight unique.





VIKING LONGSHIP

Despite having relatively shallow keels, which meant they could be rowed inland up rivers, Viking longships were remarkably seaworthy. There were two typical types, carrying 30 or 60 men.



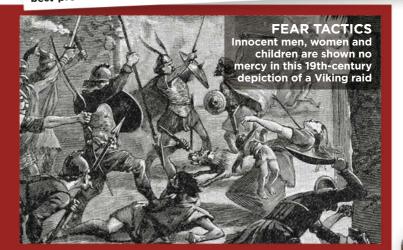
ENGLAND'S FINEST EPIC BATTLE POEM

Maldon is rare among early English battles in having a near-contemporary source that purports to describe what happened in some detail – an Old English poem known today as *The Battle of Maldon*. The original copy of the poem was destroyed in a fire in the 18th century but, fortunately, a copy had been made. Its beginning and end have been lost, but 325 lines survive, and they provide much useful information about where the fight took place and details of the day's events.

WHO WERE THE VIKINGS?

'Vikings' is the collective term used to describe the Scandinavian seafarers who began attacking the British Isles at the end of the eighth century AD. Their initial raids developed into settlement and attempts at conquest. In the 860s and 870s AD, a vast Viking army conquered Northumbria, East Anglia and Mercia before being stopped by King Alfred the Great of Wessex and his successors.

Scandinavian influence was largely restricted to the North and the East Midlands, where place names ending in 'by' and 'thorpe' are often indicators of Viking settlement. The raids resumed at the end of the tenth century and, as before, developed into attempts at conquest. This time they were successful and, from 1016-42, England was ruled by Danish monarchs, first Cnut and then his sons Harold Harefoot and Harthacnut.





had he refused to let the Vikings cross, they would probably have waited until high tide, returned to their ships and sailed off to raid elsewhere. This was Brihtnoth's best chance to defeat the Vikings in battle and put a stop to their raiding. He pulled back his army and the Vikings advanced unmolested onto the mainland.

The size of the two rival armies isn't known. At that time Viking ships tended to be of two types: 10,000 one carrying 30 and the other 60 men. he value, in pounds, of the sum paid to If the Anglo-Saxon the Vikings after the battle chronicle was correct in saying the Vikings had 93 ships, then their army would have numbered between 2.800 men and 5.600 men, although this assumes all the ships were fully manned when they left Scandinavia and takes no account of losses suffered in earlier raids. One can only speculate that, because Brihtnoth was prepared to offer battle, his army must have been at least the same size as that of his Viking enemies.

"BITTER WAS THE BATTLE-RUSH"

The clash began with an exchange of arrows, before the Vikings launched their onslaught against the English shield wall. Both sides hurled javelins at their enemies before closing in with spears, axes and swords. As blades clashed, spears thrust and wooden shields

splintered, the battle degenerated into a series of bloody hand-to-hand contests.

Leaders in those days were expected to fight at the front, and Brihtnoth was no exception. According to the poem he was twice hit by spears but still managed to kill two Vikings before a third disabled his sword arm. As Brihtnoth sank to the ground,

still encouraging his men,

the Vikings moved in for the kill, hacking him to death and cutting off the old warrior's head to carry away as a grisly trophy. The fall of their leader seems to have broken the resolve

of the English, many of whom left their ranks and made for the safety of the nearby woods.

The poem puts much of the blame for the flight on an English warrior called Godric, who is described as leaping onto Brihtnoth's horse and riding off. Believing it was in fact Brihtnoth who was fleeing, many of the English ran away as well. But not all fled:

"Here lies our leader all cut to pieces...

I will not leave,

But alongside my own Lord, I Mean to lie."

Brihtnoth's hearth troops fought

to the death around the body of their fallen leader. They took such a heavy toll of the

ENGLAND'S WORST KING?

Æthelred II became king at the age of 12, following the murder of his half-brother Edward in AD 978. Within two years, the Vikings resumed their raids upon England. The attacks increased in scale until their aim was no longer the acquisition of booty but the

PENNY PROFILE
A rare coin from the reign of
Æthelred 'the Unready'

conquest of all England. Æthelred had no real answer and, by the time he died in 1016, his kingdom was disunited and completely at the mercy of the Danes. Æthelred's nickname 'the unready' is in fact a corruption of *unraed*, a rather appropriate 12th-century play on his name meaning unadvised or ill-advised.

"As Brihtnoth sank to the ground, the Vikings moved in for the kill"

victorious Vikings that it was said the Scandinavians barely had enough men to man their ships, let alone attack Maldon.

Even so, the Vikings held the upper hand, and the worried English leadership adopted a

tactic that would soon become an established way to deal with the threat. They bought the raiders off with a large sum of money known as Danegeld. The Vikings returned home with £10,000 in cash and, it seems, the head of Ealdorman Brihtnoth. For, when Brihtnoth's tomb in Ely Cathedral was opened in the 18th century, it contained a skeleton but, where there should have been a skull there was just a ball of wax. •

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? The Vikings were thirsty for more...

The big danger of paying Danegeld to the Scandinavians was, of course, that it might encourage them to come back for more. And this is exactly what happened. As time went on, the English had to pay ever-increasing sums of money in order to gain a respite from Viking attacks. But Æthelred was never able to use the time he'd bought effectively.

Although he tried to build up England's defences and strengthen his navy, Æthelred's regime was riddled with corruption, and he was facing enemy armies of a size never previously encountered.

Unable to defeat his enemies militarily, Æthelred turned to diplomacy. He wed Emma of Normandy in a bid to deny the Danes use of Normandy's harbours. He also set Olaf Trygvasson against Svein Forkbeard by encouraging him to claim the throne of Norway.

SECURITY PAYMENT The Anglo-Saxons cough up a Danegeld to get rid of the raiders

But, in 1002 he made a major mistake: he ordered the massacre of Danish settlers in England. This further split an already fractured kingdom. Finally, in October 1016, Svein's son Cnut defeated Æthelred's successor, Edmund Ironside, at Ashington in Essex and was soon accepted as king of all England.

GET HOOKED!

Find out more about the battle and those involved

READ THE POEM

A translation of *The Battle of Maldon* poem, authored by Wilfrid Berridge, is available online. Visit *www.battleof maldon.org.uk* to have a read.

SITE OF BATTLE

The site of the action is found less than a mile's stroll along the riverbank from central Maldon. Bear in mind, though, that prior arrangement to visit Northey Island will be needed, as it is now a National Trust bird sanctuary.

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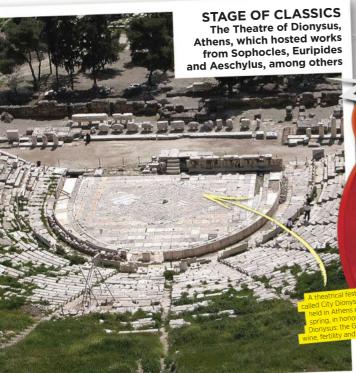


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Eureka!

Ancient Greek society was about a whole lot more than wrath-filled gods and white togas – as **Lottie Goldfinch** demonstrates with these ten inventions...





RINGING THE CHANGES

We owe the curse of the morning wake-up call to Greek philosopher Plato, who allegedly needed help waking up for dawn lectures. Water would drain slowly through a funnel to a container beneath. As the second vessel filled, trapped air was forced out of a side vent, making a whistling noise. And so the alarm clock was born. Thanks, Plato!

DRAMA QUEENS

Early theatre was born out of religious ritual, and it really began to take its own form in Ancient Greece. Developing in Athens between 530 and 220 BC, the plays revolved around three genres: tragedy, comedy and satyr, and were performed to crowds of up to 17,000. There were even some special effects: cranes could lift actors into the air and place them on the roofs of various stage buildings.

MAN WITH A PLAN

Forget Google Maps: it was the sixth-century-BC philosopher Anaximander who many credit with creating the first world map. Yes, his map depicted a flat earth floating unsupported in space, with the sun and moon as hollow rings of fire, but by drawing a map of the world he became the first geographer.

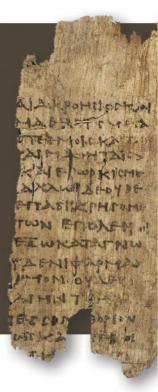


HIP, HIP, HIPPOCRATES

When we limp into doctors surgeries and hospitals today, few of us realise that the medical professionals tending our aches and pains are following guidelines that date back to fourth century BC. Named after Greek physician Hippocrates – the so-called 'Father of Medicine' – the Hippocratic Oath urges doctors to respect their patients and treat them to the best of their ability.

BROKEN OATH

A third-century-BC fragment of the Hippocratic Oath



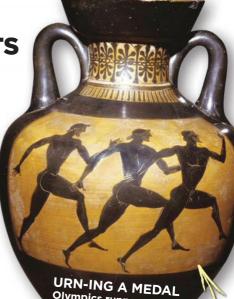


MAKING A SPLASH

The original 'Eureka!' moment occurred in the third century BC, when mathematician, philosopher and inventor Archimedes got into his bath. As the story goes, instead of settling down with the latest trashy novel, Archimedes used bathtime to work out that the upward buoyant force exerted on his partially submerged body was equal to the weight of the fluid it displaced. Thus, a fundamental law of physics was born: Archimedes' principle.

GOOD SPORTS

Beginning in the eighth century BC, the ancient Olympics were held (unsurprisingly) at Olympia, every four years. Originally a oneday event, the festival eventually extended to five days. Chariot racing, running and wresting each featured, but it wasn't all about sport: 100 oxen were sacrificed to the god Zeus, with all but the thighs devoured by a hungry crowd.



Olympics runners sprint across a fifth-century-BC vase

> Olympics' form of restling, was a brutal contest. Biting and /e-gouging were the lly forbidden tactics

ALL FOR ONE

The concepts of democracy and constitution are thought to have been born in Athens c508 BC. Democracy flourished under fifth-century-BC leader Pericles (right), who made the Assembly – all the freeborn male citizens of Athens – the central power of the state.

Women, foreigners and slaves, though, didn't get a look in.

COME RAIN OR SHINE

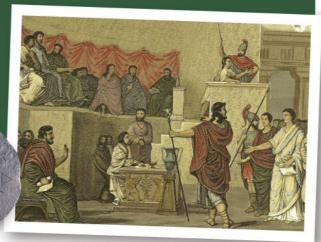
OK, so the umbrella probably has its roots in ancient China but they are thought to have been introduced to Europe via Greece, mainly as sunshades. For Greek ladies, an umbrella that could open and close was an essential fashion accessory. Men, on the other hand had to get soggy or sunburnt, unless they wanted to be viewed as effeminate.

TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT

Used in Ancient Greek courts to decide important cases, peer juries first appeared in Athens in c590 BC. But forget the 6-12 men and women we see in today's courts: Athenian juries were chaps-only, and could number anything from 500 to 1,501 - because who could afford to bribe 1,502 people?

JURY DUTY

RIGHT: A jury sits in trial at the Areios Pagos court in Athens BELOW: Bronze discs used for judgement - the solid handle meant innocent, hollow, guilty



HOT STUFF

The Ancient Greeks liked to stay warm as much as anyone and came up with a cunning idea to do so. Flues planted on the floor circulated warm air that was generated through a fire. Worshippers to the Temple of Ephesus (pictured), which boasted such a system, could stay toasty during even the longest of ceremonies!

O WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Marathons, lighthouses, wheelbarrows and more failed to make our selection — what else could we have included?

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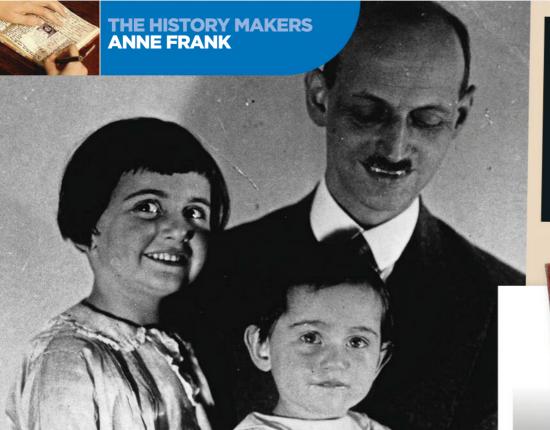


"This is a photo as I would wish myself to look all the time. Then I would maybe have a chance to come to Hollywood." Anne Frank, 10 Oct. 1942

DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL Anne's diary is a beautiful account of life as a teenager

ANNE FRANK **VOICE OF THE HOLOCAUST**

The diary of a young girl, forced into hiding by the Nazis, offers a unique insight into life for thousands of persecuted Jews during World War II. Her moving diary has touched millions since her death...



MARCH 1933 FLEEING PERSECUTION

A matter of weeks after Adolf Hitler's fiercely anti-Semitic Nazi Party wins power in Germany, Anne Frank's family flees her hometown of Frankfurt for the Netherlands (ABOVE L-R: Margot, Anne and their father Otto).

our policemen stormed into a canal-side warehouse in western Amsterdam one warm summer's day in August 1944. Inside, cowering among a network of rooms that filled the three-storey building, they found eight Jews, who had been using the property as a hiding place in an attempt to elude the murderous attentions of the city's Nazi rulers.

One of the terrified captives frogmarched out of the building that morning had left behind, in the chaos of her arrest, a small diary, bound in red and white-chequered cloth, as well as exercise books and sheets of paper. Her name was Anne Frank. She was a mere 15 years old, and the thousands of words she had recorded in those pages would make hers one of the most celebrated, and tragic, life stories of the century.

Anne had first caught sight of that little redand-white book in a shop window while out walking with her father, Otto, just over two years earlier. Noting her admiration for the book, and with her 13th birthday fast approaching, Otto had secretly returned to the shop to buy it as a present for his youngest daughter.

Anne was naturally delighted and on her birthday – 12 June 1942 – she began recording her innermost thoughts within the pages of the book, which she addressed 'Kitty'. She even adorned that opening entry with something of a manifesto for what she aimed to achieve by starting a diary: "I hope I will be able to confide in you as I have never been able to confide in anyone, and I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support."

On the surface, Anne's earliest diary entries paint a picture of a girl who was little different from any of the thousands of other 13-year-

6 JULY 1942 INTO HIDING

Anne's older sister, Margot, receives a call-up to report for relocation to a work camp. Knowing that this could well mean death, the Frank family decide to go into hiding, leaving a note in their apartment suggesting that they have fled for Switzerland. A three-storey 'Secret Annex' in a nondescript part of Amsterdam - its entrance concealed by a bookcase - will become their refuge from their Nazi persecutors for the next two years.



12 JUNE 1942 A BIRTHDAY PRESENT

Otto Frank returns home with a gift for Anne on her 13th birthday: an autograph book, bound in red-and-white chequered cloth. Anne, who had seen the book in a shop window just a few days earlier, immediately starts using it not to collect autographs but as a diary. Telling it, "I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support", she embarks on one of the most extraordinary and poignant tales of the 20th century.

olds around the world. She wrote of her love of playing table tennis, her dreams of being an actress, and how her entire class was "quaking in their boots" at the prospect of learning their grades. And what 13-year-old's diary is complete without the whiff of teenage romance (in Anne's case, with a boy called Hello Silberberg)?

TIGHTENED GRIP

But in reality, of course, Anne's life was anything but ordinary, for she was a Jew living under Nazi occupation, and that meant that Anne, her older sister Margot, mother Edith and father Otto were subjected to one of the most brutal campaigns of persecution in history.

Anne's account offers us just a hint of the privations with which the family had to contend: "Jews were required to turn in their bicycles," she recorded. "Jews were forbidden to use trams; Jews were forbidden to ride in cars... Jews were not to attend theatres, movies or any other forms of entertainment." Her list goes on and on, as the Nazis continued to

JOHN F KENNEDY

"Of the multitude who throughout history have spoken for human dignity in times of great suffering and loss, no voice is more compelling than that of Anne Frank."





tighten their grip on the Jews who lived in their occupied territories.

For all that, the Franks appeared to be enduring – if far from enjoying – the new status quo in occupied Amsterdam. Then in July 1942, they received some post that would turn their world upside down: it was a letter from the SS demanding that Margot report for relocation to a work camp.

Anne was stunned. "A call-up – everyone knows what that means," she told her diary. "Visions of concentration camps and lonely cells raced through my head."

She had every right to fear for her sister. With the massed deportations of Dutch Jews to concentration camps in Poland and Germany rapidly stepping up, there was every chance that Margot's call-up would equate to a death sentence. Luckily, her father – a businessman who had moved his family from Germany to Amsterdam nine years earlier in the wake of Hitler's rise to power – was used to thinking on his feet, and came up with an ingenious solution.

A few days later, Anne and Margot pulled on as many layers of clothes as they possibly could (it was simply too risky to be spotted with suitcases) and trudged across Amsterdam to an anonymous-looking three-storey building overlooking a canal.

Behind them, they left their house in a state of disarray, adorned with a few bits of

paperwork suggesting the family had fled for Switzerland. It was a ruse, of course, designed to throw the Gestapo off their scent, and it worked perfectly – for the 'Secret Annex' in which they set up home, with its entrance concealed by a bookcase, would be the Franks' hiding place for the next two years.

HIDDEN HOPES

"It may be damp and lopsided, but there's probably not a more comfortable hiding place in all of Amsterdam," Anne told her diary shortly after their arrival in the annex. This may appear

"The 'Secret Annex', its entrance concealed by a bookcase, would be their hiding place for the next two years."

a remarkable thing to write for a young girl whose new home had become a prison, who was unable even to peep through the curtains in daylight for fear of detection. Yet it seems that Anne – a creative, disciplined and resourceful girl – was determined to make something of her life in hiding. As she told her diary, she passed her time studying French, maths, history and shorthand (at which she excelled), and

TERROR REGIME NAZI OCCUPATION

When German forces invaded the Netherlands on 10 May 1940, the country was pitched into what was perhaps the darkest period in its entire history. Over the five-year occupation that followed, the Nazis treated the Dutch people with extreme brutality – every man between the age of 18 and 45 was forced to work in German factories, hundreds were shot for acts of resistance, and around 20,000 died in the 'Hunger Winter' of 1944-45.

Yet even these horror stories pale when compared with the cruelty inflicted upon the Netherlands' Jews. As Anne Frank records in her diary, by 1942 Dutch Jews were, among many privations, forced to wear yellow stars, and forbidden from going to swimming pools, tennis courts, cinemas and theatres.

Mid-1942 saw an even more sinister development - the start of the deportation of Dutch Jews to the death camps of central Europe. In 1940, 140,000 Jews had lived in the Netherlands; by the end of the conflict, 110,000 had been murdered. Little wonder then that many chose to go into hiding. Yet this was no guarantee of safety and survival. An estimated 15,000 were discovered and arrested - many, like the Franks, betrayed by Dutch collaborators.

dreaming of the careers she would pursue once the war was over.

Otto, it seems, also attempted to maintain some kind of normality in the Franks' lives, celebrating St Nicholas Day, a Christian festival,

by hiding a basket filled with gifts, and marking the Jewish festival of Hanukkah by lighting candles (though only for ten minutes, as they were in short supply).

But, of course, Anne's day-to-day life was far from normal, and soon the stress of living cheek by jowl with her nearest and dearest 24 hours a day was beginning to find a voice in her diary. "Margot's and Mother's personalities are so alien to me," she complained in September

1942. "I understand my girlfriends better than my own mother. Isn't that a shame?"

Such tensions were perhaps inevitable, and were only going to get worse on the arrival of four more Jewish fugitives in the annex – first Mr and Mrs van Pels and their son, Peter; then a dentist called Fritz Pfeffer (in the published diary, their names were changed to the van Daans and Albert Dussel, respectively). This

THE HISTORY MAKERS ANNE FRANK

ahn



22 MARCH 1944 LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Anne confides to her diary that "true love may be developing in the annex". She is referring to her feelings for Peter van Pels (above). "Not that I'm thinking of marrying him," she adds.

development seems to have proved something of a double-edged sword for Anne – she was excited by the prospect of seeing new faces in the annex but was soon telling her diary that her new roommate, Mr Pfeffer, was petty and pedantic after he repeatedly chastised her for being too noisy.

Before long, Anne had another reason to resent Pfeffer's presence in the annex, and that was for the news he brought with him of the terrible fate facing thousands of Dutch Jews – arrests, beatings and, for many, deportation to the death camps.

Anne's terror that she would be betrayed and forced to endure a similar fate seemed to grow with the passing months. "At night I see myself in a dungeon, without father and mother," she wrote in November 1943. "Or they come in the middle of the night to take us away and I crawl

under my bed in desperation." A series of 'near-misses' – an attempted burglary on the annex, shots being fired outside, unexpected knocking on the annex door – only added to the tension.

The moment that had haunted Anne's nightmares for two years materialises as a group of German policemen, tipped off by an unknown informer, raids the annex and arrests its inhabitants. A month later, the group is transported to Auschwitz and put into forced labour. By November, Anne and her sister Margot are, along with 8,000 other women, transported to another infamous concentration camp, Bergen-Belsen.

Yet Anne steadfastly refused to give in to terror. "As long as it exists, this sunshine and this cloudless sky, and as long as I can enjoy it, how can I be sad?" is an expression of joy in life that is scarcely believable given her situation.

LOVE STORY

By 1944, Anne had another reason to see joy in the world around her, and that was in her growing romance with Peter van Pels. "I think, Kitty, that true love may be developing in the annex," she triumphantly announced to her diary in March 1944. "All those jokes about marrying Peter if we stayed here long enough weren't so silly after all."

We know that the two youngsters kissed in the annex, and that Anne's affection for her young housemate both thrilled and comforted her. Tragically, we also know that whatever plans the two harboured for the future were never to be realised. On 15 July 1944, Anne wrote: "It's difficult in times like these: ideals, dreams and cherished hopes rise with us, only to be crushed by grim reality." Two weeks later, that grim reality caught up with the residents of the annex when they were betrayed and arrested. The identity of their informer remains unknown to this day.

END OF THE LINE Jews from across Nazioccupied Europe arrive at Auschwitz in 1944

A month after her arrest, Anne was deported, along with her mother, father and sister, to Auschwitz. On arrival, the three women were separated from Otto, had their heads shaved and were tattooed with an identifying number on their arms. From there, they were forced into slave labour.

By November 1944, Anne was on the move again, this time to the infamous Bergen-Belsen camp in northern Germany. Margot accompanied her, while Edith was left behind in Auschwitz, where she died of starvation a few weeks later. Details of what happened next remain sketchy. What we do know is that two inmates who met Anne at Bergen-Belsen describe a bald, emaciated, shivering girl. Within months, she and Margot were dead, probably killed by a terrible outbreak of typhus that swept the camp in early 1945.

Less than a year before she lay dying in Bergen-Belsen, Anne had written: "I don't want to have lived in vain like most people. I want to be useful or bring enjoyment to people, even those I've never met. I want to go on living even after my death!"

For all the tragedy of her short life, the diary she left the world, and the remarkable story it tells, ensured at least that her wish was more than borne out. •

......

NELSON MANDELA

"Some of us read Anne Frank's diary on Robben Island and derived much encouragement of it."







EARLY 1945 AN UNTIMELY DEATH

A typhus epidemic sweeps through Bergen-Belsen, killing 17,000 prisoners, among them probably Anne and Margot. We can't be sure when Anne died but it may have been a matter of weeks before the camp was liberated on 15 April 1945. No one knows the location of the sisters' final resting place – they were buried in an unmarked mass grave – but today a memorial on the Bergen-Belsen site (above) pays tribute to the pair's resilience and suffering.

A GLOBAL BESTSELLER THE STORY OF THE DIARY

On 20 June 1942, Anne Frank confided to her diary: "It seems to me that, later on, neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a 13-year-old schoolgirl." History was, of course, to prove Anne spectacularly wrong, as her diary was to become one of the 20th-century's most acclaimed pieces of literature.

The diary's journey from Amsterdam annex to global phenomenon began on the day of Anne's arrest. Miep Gies - one of those who helped conceal the Franks in their hideout - discovered the writings while picking her way through the annex in the wake of the family's betrayal, and resolved to give it back to Anne after the war. Tragically, this would prove impossible, and so Miep handed the diary to Anne's father, Otto, on his return to Amsterdam from Auschwitz in the summer of 1945. A few months later, Otto wrote to his mother: "I cannot put it down. It is unbelievably engrossing." This would be a sentiment shared by millions.

Inspired by Anne's dream of seeing her words published, Otto endeavoured to find a publisher for the diary. Within a few weeks, it had made its way to a Dutch historian, Jan Romein, who wrote in the former resistance paper Het Parool: "This apparently inconsequential diary by a child... embodies the hideousness of fascism... more so than all the evidence at Nuremberg put together."

Romein's words struck a chord for, by the early fifties, the diary had been published all over the world. It also spawned a play, which later won a Pulitzer Prize for Drama, a film, which was a critical and commercial success, and a number of TV productions.

Another landmark date in the diary's story was 3 May 1960, when the Anne Frank House - situated in the secret annex in which the young girl hid - opened its doors to the public. In that first year the house attracted 9,000 visitors. By 2013, now boasting an exhibition on Anne's life, an installation dedicated to all forms of persecution, and a reconstruction of the annex in the forties, that number had soared to 1.2 million - proof, if ever it was needed, of Anne's enduring impact.

"When everyone starts hovering over me, I get cross, then sad, and finally end up turning my heart inside out, the bad part on the outside and the good part on the inside, and keep trying to find ways to become what I'd like to be... if only there were no other people in the world"

Anne's final words in her diary, 1 August 1944



MAIN: Anne writing at her
desk at school in
Amsterdam, 1940
RIGHT: Anne's diary first
came to the public's
attention on the front
page of Het Parool
FAR RIGHT: A Dutch first
edition of Anne's diary
Het Achterhuis
(The Annex)



300: the Battle of Thermopylae

With blood, abs and slow-mo, this swords-and-sandals romp seems to leave historical accuracy at the door – but does it really? asks **Jonny Wilkes**

he Battle of Thermopylae is seconds away, and Zack Snyder's 300 prepares to explode into an hour of unapologetically blood-splattered action. A phalanx of 300 lone warriors from the Greek military state of Sparta faces hundreds of thousands of soldiers from every corner of the mighty Persian Empire, but, having trained for war their entire lives, they are unfazed by the impossible odds. Before shields clatter and spears are thrust, a Persian messenger offers a final chance to surrender. "Spartans!" he yells, "Lay down your weapons." But the Spartan King Leonidas (played with gusto by Gerard Butler) takes pleasure in his retort: "Persians! Come and get them."

It is a line that sounds like it could only have been written for an action movie and yet that dialogue is about 2,500 years old. The real Leonidas sent that response to the Persian King Xerxes before battle was joined in 480 BC. That serves to show the surprising thing about 300. As an ostentatious, stylised blockbuster, there is much that can be dismissed as historically suspicious or the victim of overly artistic license, but at its heart, the movie understands just how cinematic the actual battle was and that Leonidas and his 300 Spartans were tailor-made to be action stars and, as it turned out, martyrs.

LIVE AND BREATHE WAR

In 480 BC, the Persian Empire was already the largest power base the world had seen, but Xerxes greedily eyed the independent city states that formed Greece as a stepping stone to expand into Europe. His father, Darius, attempted to invade a decade earlier but had been repelled at the Battle of Marathon, so Xerxes, determined not to make the

same mistakes, spent years preparing a gargantuan army and fleet. Putting their usual rivalries aside, the Greeks united against this threat and knew their best chance of success was to fight on two fronts. At sea, they would block the Persians at the Straits of Artemisium, while on land, the ideal ground to defend was Thermopylae, or 'Hot Gates' (named after the hot springs there). With water to the east and mountains to the west, it was a narrow coastal track in northern Greece, which the Persian army would have to march through if they wanted to reach the southern states.

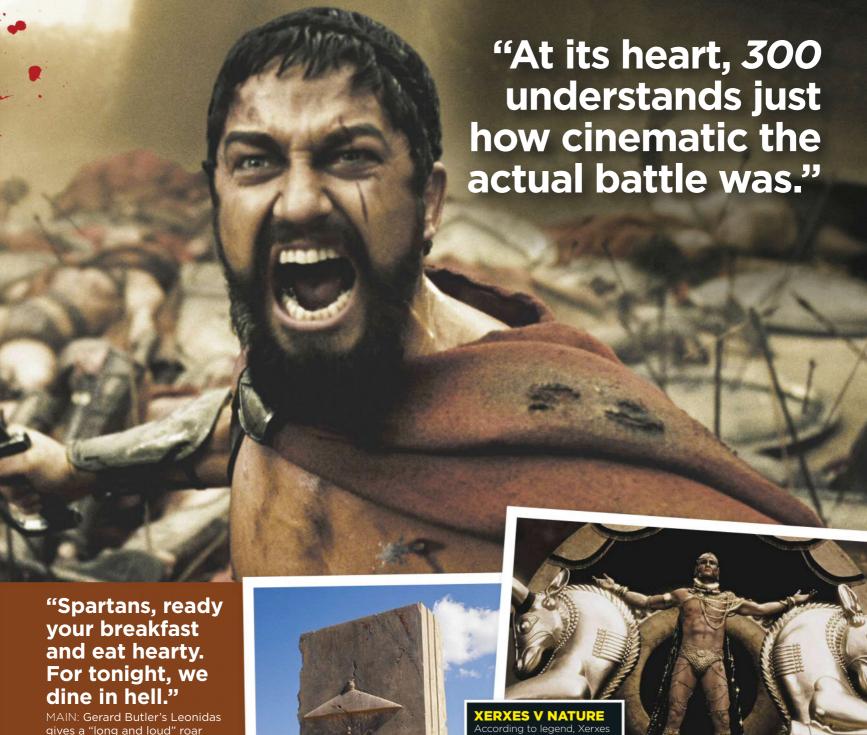
The Spartans, who lived and breathed war, were the natural choice to lead the land force. They were an elite fighting force of highly disciplined and seemingly fearless warriors, skilled with a number of weapons (except the bow, which they considered the weapon of cowards). From birth - where they are inspected for physical faults and discarded on a hilltop if deemed weak - the life of a man in Sparta was consumed by the army. While helots ('slaves') carried out everyday jobs such as farming, Spartans were in constant, brutal military training and drilled to believe that the greatest glory they could achieve was to die in battle. Such was Sparta's readiness for war, the city had two kings so that one could maintain law and order at home while the other led the army.

Yet something could hold them back: their own rules. When they were needed at the Hot Gates, Spartans were celebrating not only the festival of



THE FACTS
Release date: 2006
Director:
Zack Snyder
Cast:
Gerard Butler,
Lena Headey

Cast: Gerard Butler, Lena Headey, David Wenham, Rodrigo Santoro, Dominic West, Michael Fassbender Carneia but the Olympics too, so were doubly forbidden by Spartan law from marching to war. It was only the urgency of the situation that permitted the warrior King Leonidas to take 300 men of the royal bodyguard as an advance party. Unlike in the movie, this was done with the blessing of the 'ephors' - five of the most influential men in Sparta. The aim was to hold the Persians long enough for the main army to arrive after the Carneia, but Leonidas knew it was a suicide mission. He had heard a prophecy claiming that a Spartan king would die before the Persians were defeated and, to ensure the safety of



gives a "long and loud" roar LEFT: This statue of Leonidas has stood in former Spartan lands

since it was erected in 1968

Spartan bloodlines, he insisted that only men with living sons be among the 300 soldiers, or 'hoplites'.

SHOW NO FEAR

That is not to say the Spartans faced the might of Persia alone - a common misconception - as they were joined by men from all over Greece, as well as their ranks being boosted by helots. In all, some 7,000 men reached the Hot Gates, but this was still dwarfed by the invading enemy. The Greek historian Herodotus claimed the Persians numbered over 2 million and, while "You have many slaves, Xerxes, but few warriors. It won't be long before they fear my spears more than your whips."

ordered a bridge over the

strait of Hellespont (now the

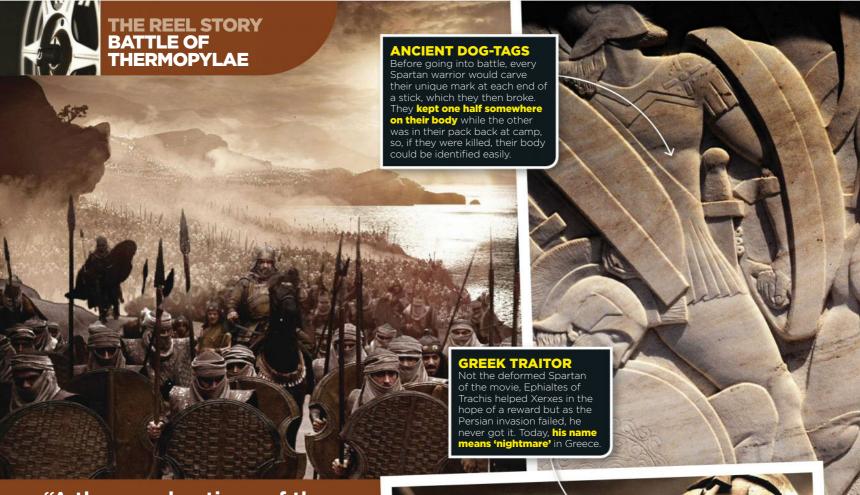
Dardanelles) to be built out

storm wrecked the bridge, he had the water whipped

of barges to a

LEFT: A fifth-century BC relief of Xerxes in the Persian capital of Persepolis, in Iran ABOVE: In 300, Xerxes (Rodrigo Santoro) is depicted as a nine-feet tall god-King





"A thousand nations of the Persian Empire will descend upon you. Our arrows will blot out the Sun."

"Then we will fight in the shade."

ABOVE: The Persian army – which the Greek historian Herodotus claimed was 2 million-strong – was held by 7,000 Greeks for two days of battle RIGHT: Andrew Tiernan as the traitor Ephialtes

modern estimates put the total much lower at around 200,000, this was more than enough to trample any Greek force. This was probably why Xerxes did not attack right away, assuming the Greeks would lose heart at the sight of his armies and retreat. When he sent a spy, however, he was shocked to learn that the Spartans were wrestling, combing their hair and showing no signs of concern whatsoever. Such attitudes were standard Spartan behaviour; it was vital to show no fear. As one legend goes, when the Spartans were warned that the Persian arrows would be so numerous that they would block out the Sun, one Spartan replied with another cinematic zinger: "So much the better... then we shall fight our battle in the shade."

After five exacerbating days of waiting, Xerxes gave the signal to attack. As the Greeks predicted, Persia's superior numbers meant nothing in the Hot Gates. Wave after wave of Persian

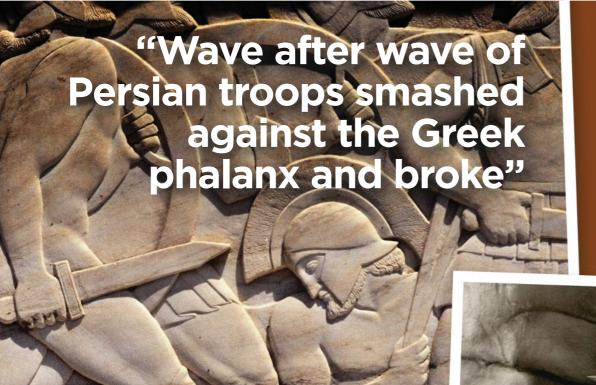
troops smashed against the Greek phalanx - a shield wall that spanned the pass - and broke. As the Spartans had longer spears, stronger shields and, crucially, bronze body armour (they certainly weren't the topless, loinclothclad warriors of 300), they could jab and thrust in meticulously trained manoeuvres. So many Persians were cut down that Xerxes, watching from a throne on a nearby hillside, couldn't keep his calm and composure. He made a rash move. All 10,000 of his elite troops, the Immortals, were sent in on the first day, allowing the Greeks to pick off the best Persia had to offer before fatigue set in. For the rest of that day, the Spartans - as said in the movie - put the name of the Immortals to the test.

The second day went no better, as the Greeks could rotate the phalanx to

stop getting tired. This is when, in 300, Xerxes desperately sends increasingly fantastical men and creatures, from magicians to war rhinos – which they had in real life as much as they would have had laser guns or Sherman tanks – into battle. Just as the real Xerxes grew desperate, however, the destiny of the battle shifted. In the hope of getting rich, a Greek by the name of Ephialtes, who wasn't a hunchbacked former Spartan as the movie suggests, told the Persians of a small mountain path that would let them outflank the Greeks.

NEVER SURRENDER

Leonidas had positioned a unit of men on this path days before but, on seeing the advancing Immortals, they swiftly retreated. Knowing that the end was imminent, Leonidas ordered the



"Spartans! Lay down your weapons." "Persians! Come and get them."

LEFT: It is thought that the phalanx originated in Sparta. This carving of the Battle of Thermopylae gives an idea of how closely packed the formation is BELOW: As the Hot Gates were narrow, the Greek phalanx reached across the whole pass – forming an impenetrable barrier against the massive Persian force

withdrawal of the bulk of the Greeks, saying the Spartans would stay behind as a rear-guard. It was both a rational and irrational call – by staying, the Spartans could make sure the rest of the Greeks lived to fight another day, but Leonidas was also driven by Spartan nature not to surrender or retreat. His Spartans were joined in this last stand by 700 oftoverlooked Thespians and 400 Thebans.

Abandoning the phalanx, the Spartans and company stormed the Persians so they could take as many as they could with them. Their fighting was fierce, and it is said that thousands of Persians died, including two of Xerxes' brothers, yet the tall and strong Leonidas was also killed. With victory now certain, Xerxes ordered relentless volley after volley of arrows and the remaining Greeks were completely eradicated.

In the short term, it was a hugely damaging defeat for the Greeks, as Xerxes stormed through to Athens, which had been evacuated, and razed it to the ground. If it were not for the betrayal of Ephialtes, the Spartans could have spearheaded one of the most extraordinary victories in military history but instead, their king was dead and his head cut off. And the legacy of a civilisation renowned for its military prowess became forevermore linked to a total defeat. The tale of the courage and commitment of the 300 Spartans,

THE HOT SPOT

The pass at Thermopylae, known as the Hot Gates, saw **two other ancient battles** after the last stand of the Spartans - when the Greeks fought Gallic and Roman armies in 279 BC and 191 BC respectively.

however, started to be told around Greece, giving warriors strength as the fight against Persia continued. Not long afterwards, the Greek navy won at Salamis and, the following year, the Persian invasion was crushed once and for all at the Battle of Plataea – with the full Spartan army at the vanguard.

That is where 300 ends. Like Frank Miller's graphic novel on which it is based, the movie never compromises on action for historical pedantry, and nor should it. It is a romping, beautifully shot and thrilling watch; to be enjoyed as an action-packed adventure, not for its accuracy. Yet, amidst the oiled torsos and excellently choreographed fighting, it will still come as a pleasant surprise at how much of the over-the-top plot is grounded in the ancient accounts of bold Leonidas and his brave 300. •

O I WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Is this the greatest last stand in history? What other battles rival that of the 300 Spartans? Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

Ones to watch: Ancient Greece

Jason and the Argonauts (Don Chaffey, 1963) With iconic stop-motion animation from Ray Harryhausen, the Ancient Greek myth of Jason's quest for the Golden Fleece is brought to life in this classic adventure.

Troy (Wolfgang Petersen, 2004) Swords, sandals, stars and set-pieces abound as Brad Pitt plays the hero Achilles, who seeks immortal glory in the siege of Troy against Eric Bana's Hector.

300: Rise of an Empire (Noam Murro, 2014) Taking in the immediate



Will Achilles (Brad Pitt) be brought to heel in *Troy*?

aftermath of the events of 300, the equally bloody and stylised sequel focuses on the Athenian hero Themistokles (Sullivan Stapleton) as he leads the Greeks into naval battle at Salamis.

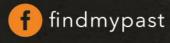
YOUR ANCESTORS WERE

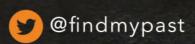
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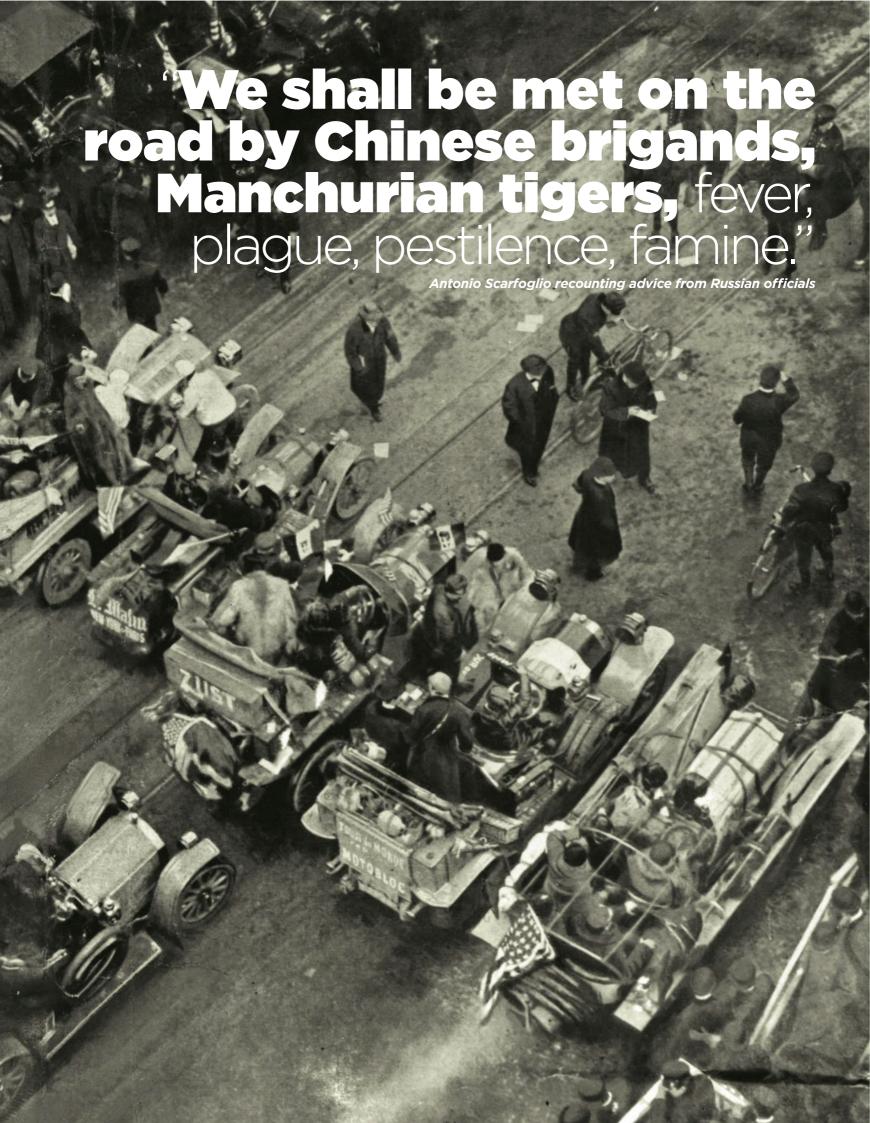
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ack in 1908, when cars were a rich man's toy rather than a means of transport, an extraordinary race was held - covering nearly 22,000 miles across three continents. Over almost six months, team members mutinied, pistols were drawn, extortion was attempted and the cars tackled terrain ranging from frozen swamps to railway tracks.

The Great Race was staged in mid-winter, because organisers wanted competitors to drive across the frozen Bering Strait from Alaska to Russia - yet this was an era before antifreeze or snowploughs; the winning car had a convertible roof and no windscreen. Many including Henry Ford - doubted the cars would cope. At that time, just nine people had crossed the United States by automobile - none of them during winter.

Was such a journey even possible? Theoretically, yes. But, warned Britain's Daily Mail, "the motor car, after a woman, is the most fragile and capricious thing on Earth."

THE WACKY RACERS

Sponsored by the New York Times and France's Le Matin, the race captured the world's imagination. Six cars set out on 12 February, carrying the flags of four nations, and 17 men from five countries (see line-up, right). France entered three cars. The first was a De Dion-Bouton, driven by G Bourcier de St Chaffray (who had previously organised a Marseille-Algiers motorboat race, which saw the entire field sink), with Norwegian explorer, Hans Hendrick Hansen. The second French car was a Moto-bloc, driven by Charles Godard and the third, a Sizaire-Naudin, with August Pons at

Italy entered a Zust, driven by Emilio Sirtori, accompanied by a young journalist and poet, Antonio Scarfoglio, who'd threatened to cross the Atlantic in a motorboat if his father didn't let him enter the race. The German team was led by an aristocratic army officer, Hans Koeppen, in a custommade Protos. He had never driven

before, but was accompanied by army engineer Hans Knape and motorcyclist Ernst Maas.

America was late entering a team, and did so only after President Teddy Roosevelt intervened, using his influence with New York-based car manufacturer ER Thomas. Piloting the Thomas Flyer was 25-year-old racing driver Montague Roberts, with the Thomas factory's chief troubleshooter, George Schuster, alongside him, and a New York Times reporter named T Walter Williams in the back.

Over 250,000 spectators filled New York's Times Square for the start (see 1 on map, over the page) - which was delayed because the mayor couldn't get through the crowd. Eventually, at 11.15am, Colgate Hoyt, president of the Automobile Club of America fired the gold-plated starting gun. The cars drove north on Broadway, then traced the icy Hudson River along a track that's now Route 9.

Chains were deployed, but the Moto-bloc still skidded into a ditch. The Sizaire-Naudin developed rear-axle trouble climbing Splitlock Hill, just 40 miles into the race. Pons, who spoke no English and had no spare parts with him, managed to limp on to Red Hook, then pulled out because of a

broken differential.

Between Albany and Buffalo, the cars followed the icy towpath alongside the Erie Canal and negotiated the frozen fields and Montezuma Swamps of upstate New York, where

several had to be dragged out of the mire by horses. Lake Erie blasted them with horrific blizzards, and speed was often measured in feet per hour.

What began as a gentlemanly sport turned into a race proper when the Italians skipped a group dinner in Buffalo to steal the lead. The Americans took offence at the imperious St Chaffray issuing orders, while the Europeans were unimpressed by locals, whom they accused of helping the Flyer.

NO THROUGH ROADS

TOP TO BOTTOM: The cars battled deep snow for the first two weeks; **Curious locals watch the Thomas** Flyer chug through Manchuria, China; Union Pacific locomotive #274 (the Flyer) struggles across the rails in the American West; while waiting for repairs in Siberia, the Thomas Flyer team fashions a rough-and-ready shelter nicknamed 'Camp Hard Luck'

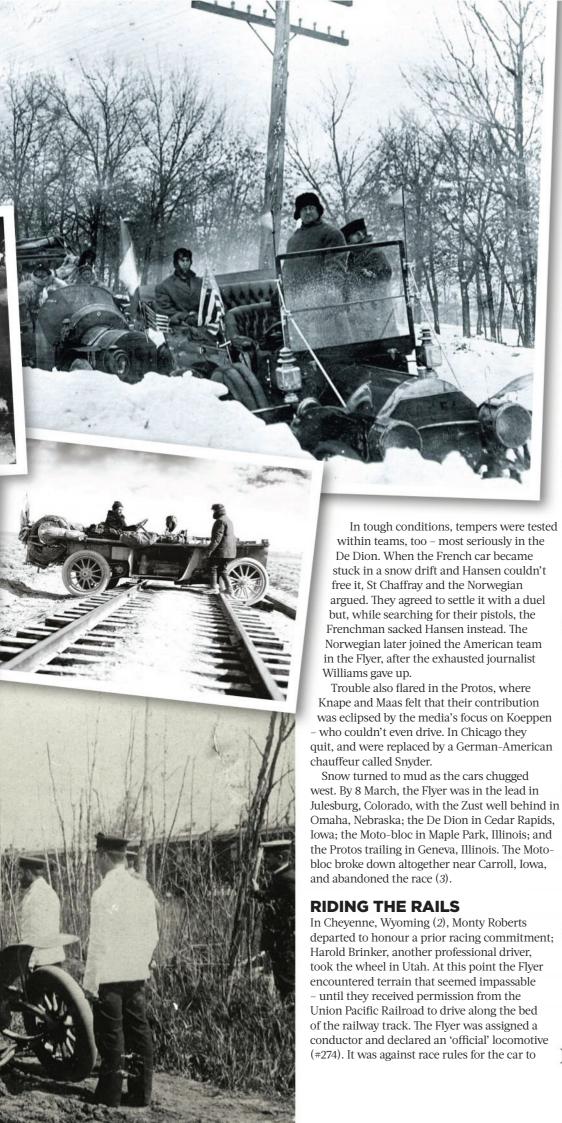






STUCK IN THE MUD The German Protos car finds itself in the quaqmire in Siberia

the wheel.



THE STARTING LINE-UP

THOMAS FLYER (USA)



Unlike the other cars, each built or modified for the race, the Flyer was a lastminute entry straight off the forecourt. Winner of

PROTOS (GERMANY)



At 2 metres wide, nearly 5 metres long and 2,700kgs, the Protos was the most rugged and best-equipped car. Came in second.

ZUST (ITALY)



The Zust was the smallest car in The Great Race, but had been heavily customised specifically for the competition. Finished third.

DE DION (FRANCE)



Designed with comfort in mind: the De Dion could warm the crew with its exhaust heat. The De Dion did not finish - it was sold mid-race.

MOTO-BLOC (FRANCE)



Driver Godard was a veteran of the Peking-Paris race, in which he'd set a record for driving 24 hours nonstop. Did not finish - the car broke down in Iowa.

SIZAIRE-NAUDIN (FRANCE)



French entry barely even started the race - it dropped out on day one, just 96 miles in, having suffered a broken differential.

The third



ride the rails, but straddling the track and driving across the ties was deemed permissible - albeit dangerous. Once, stranded on the track with a puncture, the car and its crew were almost annihilated by an oncoming locomotive.

The Southern Pacific Railroad was less accommodating, so in Utah, beneath the Rockies, the Flyer steered south into Nevada. When the car's drive pinion broke during a creek crossing, Schuster went on a 150-mile mission by foot and horseback to Tonopah, to borrow a replacement from a Thomas-owning doctor. The fixed Flyer continued into California to arrive in San Francisco, via Death Valley, on 24 March, still with a good lead (4). Here, Brinker reluctantly left the race, and

Schuster took the wheel again.

ACROSS THE FINISH LINE

TOP: The Italian Zust car arrives in Paris, but isn't the winner

BOTTOM: Reporters and supporters surround the overall victor - the Thomas Flyer

Meanwhile, just west of Cheyenne, the Protos hit a snag: it became mired in a streambed at Rock River. Koeppen set out walking to find help, but collapsed; fortunately, he was found before he froze to death.

The Italians were making slow but steady progress along El Camino Real, where Scarfoglio describes their primary problem being a recurrent urge to stop "near one of these white robed women who send us smiles and kisses on the tips of their fingers". They reached San Francisco on 5 April, by which stage the Flyer was on its way to Alaska, via Seattle (5).

The entire population of Valdez turned out to meet the American team, but the conditions were considerably cooler than the reception. After inspecting the Valdez-Fairbanks trail, Schuster concluded that the only way to get the Flyer 1,200 miles to Nome, near the Bering Strait, would be to completely dismantle it and dog-sled it across land.

Instead, race organisers changed the route, sending the four remaining cars across the Pacific by ship to Japan. The Flyer sailed back to Seattle, then on to Kobe. The other cars



6.15PM, 26 JULY

Boulevard Poissonnière, Paris

Lieutenant Koeppen drives the Protos into Paris where it is the first car to cross the finish line but not the winner of the race. The total race times are adjusted to take account of the Americans' detour to Alaska and the Germans' proscribed rail car ride to Seattle. Four days later, the Flyer arrives to claim victory.

8 JULY **Ekaterinburg, Russia**

The Flyer crosses the border in the lead, leaving Asia and entering Europe, where road conditions improve. Schuster climbs onto the stone border marker and carves his initials on the European side of the edifice.

Vladivostok, Russia

The four remaining teams reunite. However, the last French car in the race, the De Dion, has been sold by its owner. Team captain St Chaffray attempts to bribe his way onto the American and Italian teams by buying up all locally available fuel. His tactic fails, and just three cars remain in the race: the Flyer, the Protos and the Zust. They set off on 22 May.

10 MAY

Japan

After another 28 days at sea, the crew of the Thomas Flyer lands in Japan. While the other cars were put ashore at Yokohama, the American team proceeds to Kobe to make up lost time. Schuster is now driving.

NATIONAL

HARRAH COLLECTION), RENO,

5

had already entered Japan at
Yokohama (6), but times would be
adjusted to reflect the Americans'
extra distance, restoring their lead.
The Protos, which had travelled from
Idaho to Seattle by rail because of damage,
also incurred a 15-day penalty.

Japan's roads were narrow, twisty and steep, but at least they were roads. The Flyer quickly covered 350 miles from Kobe to the Sea of Japan, and caught the ferry to Russia. In Vladivostok (7) the remaining teams were reunited – but it wasn't a pleasant meeting.

Marquis De Dion, owner of the French automobile company, had been informed by his family that, unless he gave up the costly race, they would have him declared insane and seize his assets. He sold his car to a Chinese businessman, leaving his captain, St Chaffray, stranded. Desperate, St Chaffray turned dastardly; he purchased every drop of nearby fuel in order to bribe his way onto the Italian or American teams.

The Italians gave him short shrift, and Schuster managed to source fuel from a German trading company. That left St Chaffray with a simple choice: ride with the Germans or take the train home. He caught the train. The Germans left Vladivostok

first, but torrential rain turned Siberia into a muddy mess. The Americans found the Protos stuck in the quagmire and, in a show of sportsmanship that led to the opening of a bottle of Champagne, helped pull their rivals free.

winner of the race

Things weren't always so civilised. In the dire conditions, teams squabbled. Once, when faced with a fork in the road, Hansen aimed a pistol at Schuster, demanding he go left. In the back, Miller (the assistant mechanic) pointed his gun at Hansen and insisted on right. The stand-off dissipated, and the team continued – right.

The Germans and Americans swapped the lead several times across Asia, while the Italians lagged behind, dealing with their own dramas. Eventually, on 8 July, the Flyer reached the Russian city of Ekaterinburg (8), crossing from Asia into Europe, which promised better roads.

After navigational errors and an encounter with a mud hole, the Flyer had lost the real-time

lead to the Protos, and Koeppen drove down Boulevard Poissonnière in Paris at 6.15pm on 26 July, to muted applause (9). With times adjusted for the Alaska detour, however, Schuster still had a month to reach Paris and win the race; he took only 4 days – with the help of a little luck.

On 30 July, the Flyer was approaching the Place de l'Opéra when a gendarme stopped it and arrested the driver – for not having lights on his car. A cyclist saved the day by placing his bike, complete with lights, in the car alongside Schuster. The officer was satisfied, and the car drove on to victory in the world's wackiest race. •

GET HOOKED



WATCH

The Greatest Auto Race on Earth, a 2008 TV documentary featuring on-location reconstructions, is an excellent and comprehensive telling of the story, made exactly 100 years after the race played out.

TRAVEL

If you're heading Stateside, you can see the race-winning Thomas Flyer on display at the National Automobile Museum in Reno, Nevada. www.automuseum.org



The Inomas Flyer sails to Alaska, where Schuster quickly concludes that the terrain isn't drivable. The race committee turns to plan B and the course is rerouted

through Japan.

4 24 MARCH San Francisco

Having left Times Square 41 days, 8 hours and 15 minutes earlier, with 3,836 miles covered, the Thomas Flyer becomes the first-known car to cross North America during winter.

3 17 MARCH Carroll, Iowa

A second French team, driving a Moto-bloc, is forced out of the race with mechanical problems.

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Social historian genealogist and author of Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship (2013)



GREG JENNER

Consultant for BBC's Horrible Histories series and author of A Million

Years in a Day (2015)

SANDRA LAWRENCE

Writer and columnist, with a specialist interest in British heritage subjects



MILES RUSSELL

Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at **Bournemouth University**

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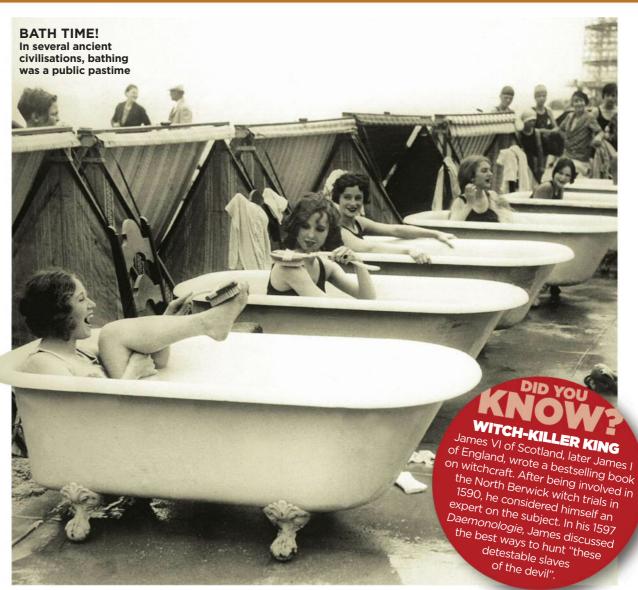
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HOW OLD IS BATHIN

Humans have probably been bathing since the Stone Age, not least because the vast majority of European caves that contain Palaeolithic art are short distances from natural springs.

By the Bronze Age, beginning around 5,000 years ago, washing had become very important. Ancient Egyptian priests were fastidiously

clean, but arguably the greatest washers were the Harappan people living in the Indus Valley, in modernday south-east Asia. Their city of Mohenjo-daro (Mound of the Dead) boasted a 'Great Bath', covering over 80 metres in area, which was likely a ritual space for religious bathing.

This was perhaps not open to all ranks of society, but throughout

Harappan cities, there were also wells and bathing platforms for the masses. At Mohenjo-Daro, one building was discovered with an underground furnace, possibly so baths could be heated. Indeed, the Harappans were obsessed with water, and had sophisticated hygienic infrastructure to deliver it to and from their homes. GJ

Did Roman men dodge their military service?

Life in the Roman Empire wasn't all banquets and festivals as, for the men at least, there were long periods of military conscription. Although by no means common in the early Empire, some men attempted to escape service by cutting off their thumbs so they couldn't wield a sword. Draft-dodging, however, was dealt with severely. Emperor Augustus once punished an aristocrat who removed the thumbs of his two sons, by selling him into slavery and auctioning off his property.

In AD 368 – when barbarian tribes were migrating in ever-larger numbers into the Empire – conscription avoidance was so endemic, stiffer penalties were imposed, including public burnings. By the end of the fourth century, Emperor Theodosius passed a law that forced the thumb-less to serve and made any parent or landowner presenting a mutilated individual find a second to make good the loss. Eventually, a lack of new recruits, combined with losses in battle, meant Rome became reliant on barbarian migrants to fill staff shortages. MR

WHAT IS THE EARLIEST EVIDENCE OF A CALENDAR YEAR DATE IN THE UK?

Hindu-Arabic numerals were developed in India around 1,500 years ago, and, by the tenth century, began to show up in European texts. Yet the symbols remained rare until the Italian mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci introduced them to a wider audience in 1202. From then, travelling merchants helped them spread out of Italy and into Britain, so that during the 1200s, the carpenters at Salisbury Cathedral were numbering timber beams with Arabic numerals.

However, medieval graffiti, building inscriptions and

1434

gravestones suggest that the calendar year wasn't written in Arabic numerals until the 1400s, partly due to the medieval custom of measuring the regnal year of a ruling monarch (so 1415 was the second year of Henry V).

A possible candidate for earliest date is an inscription reading '1445' at All Saints Church in Heathfield, East Sussex. Certainly, it was in the 15th century that Arabic numerals became more frequent, thanks to Gutenberg and Caxton using them extensively in printing, but Roman numerals would still be commonplace on buildings until the 18th century. GJ

PAY THROUGH THE SNOUT

It used to be law in England to pay a 'tithe' (one-tenth of income, crop yield or livestock) to the church. Many of the poor would offer their parson a 'tithe-pig' - literally a pig as a form of tax It became common for Arabic numerals to be added to buildings at a later date, such as the '1434' seen on Mulberry Hall in York

MULBERRY HALL



GIVE THE THUMBS DOWN
So they couldn't carry their swords,
Roman men would cut off their thumbs

40 million

The estimated number of people killed by Genghis Khan's Mongol army.

YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE, BUT IF YOU DO IT RIGHT, ONCE IS ENOUGH.

MAE WEST (1893-1980)

Quips like this came easily to film star and sex symbol of the roaring twenties Mae West. With a razor-sharp wit and an exuberant personality, she spent her seven-decade career living life to the full, no matter who her risqué persona offended. She incurred the wrath of newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst – who wrote "Isn't it time Congress did something about Mae West?" – and a 1926 performance of her play, Sex, was raided by the police.

WHO INVENTED TROUSERS?

To Romans and Greeks, trousers were the ultimate symbol of the horseriding barbarian, while civilised men preferred the bare-legged tunic or skirt. The Romans, in particular, were deeply suspicious of trousers, until, that is, their soldiers marched into the significantly colder Northern Europe, and they realised the usefulness of warm breeches.

One of the earliest examples of a 'trouser-like' garment was found on the body of 'Otzi' - the 5,000-year-old man preserved in Alpine ice. He is wearing leather leggings supported by suspenders tied to a belt. MR

THE BORGIAS

In Renaissance Rome, one powerful family stood out as being steeped in sin and immorality – but were they that bad?

Who were they?
The Borgias were a powerful family in
Renaissance Italy. Despite the fact that they produced two Popes, their name has become associated with all kinds of dark deeds.

How did the Borgias first come to prominence?

They were originally a noble Spanish dynasty, who switched to Italy when Alfonso di Borgia (1378-1458) was made a Cardinal in 1444. Eleven years later, he was appointed as Pope - taking the name Callixtus III - and gave a leg-up to his nephew Rodrigo Borgia. In 1492, Rodrigo kept the family tradition going and also succeeded to the papacy. As the hugely controversial Pope Alexander VI, he began to accumulate a vast amount of land and power for himself and his illegitimate children.

Could a Pope have children?

As a priest, Rodrigo was supposed to live in celibacy, but this did not prevent him having a number of mistresses and fathering several children – even while Pope. He was not the only priest to have had children, but the way he openly acknowledged many of them and sought to advance their careers was unusual.

Which of his children were the most noteworthy?

Soon after becoming Pope, Rodrigo had his son Cesare made a Cardinal. Cesare, however, was not suited to the religious life and instead became a military commander, where he conducted a number of campaigns in the sole hope of creating a Borgia principality in Italy that would survive the death of his father. He was forced to abandon this dream when his father died in 1503 and was replaced as Pope by Julius II, who was instantly hostile to the Borgia family. Cesare ended up leaving Italy and dying in Spain during a skirmish.

Another notable child of Rodrigo's was Lucrezia, used by her father as a diplomatic pawn. Three marriages, which were politically advantageous for the Borgias, were arranged for her. Her first was annulled due to supposed non-consummation, while her second husband was murdered by Cesare's servants. In the end, Lucrezia's third and final marriage, to the Duke of Ferrara, was much happier and she managed to achieve a comfortable life at court, where she became a patron of the arts.

The Borgias are remembered as sexual

deviants and murderers, but they weren't any worse than other Renaissance families

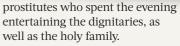
Why do the Borgias have such a bad reputation?

The Borgias were accused of a catalogue of sins, among them murder, incest, poisoning and bewitching. They are also infamously associated with all manner of sexual depravity. The most notorious and sordid tale was the 'Banquet of Chestnuts' in 1501 – a mass orgy supposedly held by Cesare in Rome, and featuring 50 naked

FAMILY LEGACY

Rodrigo Borgia (second from left) used his position as Pope to build fortune and power, and arrange political marriages for his daughter Lucrezia (below)





Part of the reason for this black reputation is that Rodrigo and Cesare were ruthless and highly ambitious men, prepared to use violence and trickery to increase their power. It is not for nothing that Cesare was a great inspiration to the writer Niccolo Machiavelli. Yet, many of the extreme allegations made against the Borgias don't stand up to scrutiny and seem likely to have been fabricated by their enemies, of whom there were many.

Coming from Spain, the Borgias were always viewed as outsiders in Italy. What popularity they acquired, moreover, was diminished by their constant efforts to gain land and power at the expense of others. Their dynasty was brief – after Rodrigo died, they faded as quickly as they had risen, leaving few friends remaining who would defend their memory from the rumours that immediately began swirling around them.

So has history been unfair to the Borgias?

It almost certainly has. When the more unlikely accusations are removed, their behaviour was not necessarily worse than that of many other powerful Italian families in the Renaissance era. They were far from saints, but don't deserve to be remembered as the epitome of villainy.



83

HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

LA SAGRADA FAMÍLIA

In the heart of Barcelona sits famed architect Antoni Gaudí's unfinished gothic masterpiece

Construction on the Expiatory Temple of the Holy Family (better known as *La Sagrada Família*, or 'The Holy Family') began in 1882, but – over 130 years later – it remains unfinished. That, however, hasn't stopped the mighty basilica from becoming one of Spain's most popular tourist locations, with some 3 million people flocking every year to marvel at the wholly unique architecture of Antoni Gaudí. He may only have seen a quarter of the building finished, but others have stepped in to make sure that Gaudí's dream is fulfilled.

REACH TO HEAVEN When completed, La Sagrada Família will be the tallest church building in the world

OF CHARITY
The carved faces were based on some of the builders, citizens of Barcelona and even a few bodies from the morgue.

GOD'S ARCHITECT

......

Antoni Gaudí – who once quipped that his client, God, was in no hurry to see the basilica finished – devoted more than 40 years to La Sagrada Família, believing it was a divine mission. When not working, he lived a life of poverty and fasting. After the 74-year-old died in 1926, from being knocked down by a streetcar, his body wasn't identified for days as he was thought to be a vagrant.

SEEN FROM ABOVE

When Gaudí was asked why - as no one could see them properly - he was putting so much time and effort in making the tops of the spires so elaborate, he responded, "The angels will see them".

THE PERMANENT BUILDING SITE

It has recently been announced that La Sagrada Família will finally be finished by 2026, on the 100th anniversary of Gaudí's death. The great architect lived to see only one tower erected, but construction carried on using the designs and models he left. These were mostly destroyed in 1936 – when anarchists fighting in the Spanish Civil War stormed the building – so plans had to be pieced together from surviving notes. This continues to court controversy, as many have argued that the completed Sagrada Família will be nothing like what Gaudí envisioned.

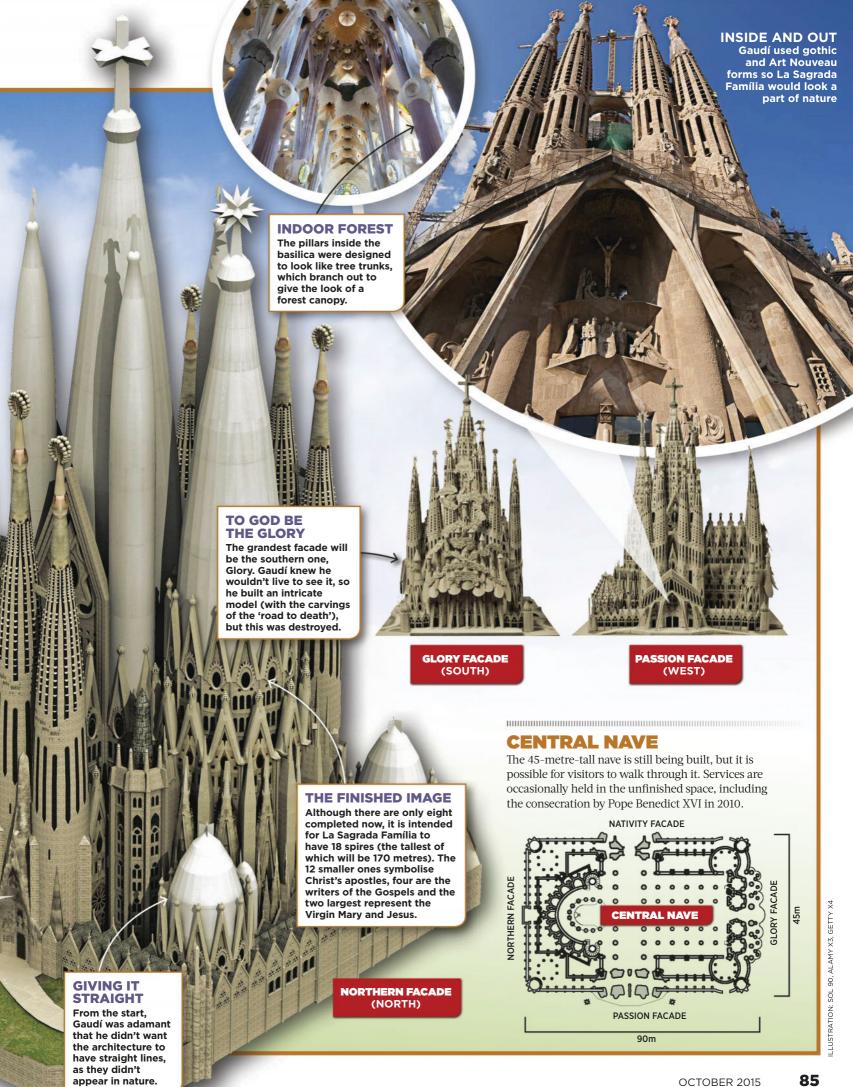
THE PORTAL OF HOPE

To the left of the main entrance are Biblical scenes meant to test our hope, such as the slaughter of the innocents.

NATIVITY FACADE

THE PORTAL OF FAITH

The three portals face the rising Sun, to represent the birth of Jesus Christ.



At the time Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector of England in 1653, it was common for portraits to flatter the subject by softening or removing any blemishes (like early photoshopping). So, for Cromwell, there was no better way to distance himself from the vanity and self-indulgence of the monarchy than by having his likeness as accurate as possible. When Sir Peter Lely, portrait painter to the executed King Charles I, was brought before Cromwell, therefore, he was supposedly told: "I desire you would use all your skill to paint your picture truly like me... but remark all these roughness, pimples, warts and everything as you see me. Otherwise, I will never pay a farthing for it." Although this story's veracity may be debated, it has survived, and when we want the full, unblemished story, we still

What's the

oldest statue in London?

The oldest freestanding statue in London is thought to be of King Alfred the Great, now residing in leafy Trinity Church Square, Southwark. Most theories date the figure to the late 14th century, where it was one of a group of eight ordered by Richard II for Westminster Hall in 1395 - five of which were rather inconveniently lost by Sir John Soane whilst clearing the front in 1825.

If, as some scholars claim, Alfred dates only to the 18th century, the crown goes to a round-faced, sweetly-smiling Queen Elizabeth I, erected outside St Dunstan-in-the-West on Fleet Street, which was removed from the City's old Lud Gate in 1760. With '1586' carved into the base, it is the only remaining statue of the Queen carved in her lifetime.

London does, however, have sculptures dating much further back. At the entrance to Sotheby's

auction house in New Bond Street, the Ancient Egyptian Sekhmet surveys all who enter. Sold in the 1880s for £40 but never collected, the bust, carved in black basalt and depicting the goddess as a lioness, dates to around 1320 BC. SL



STATUE OF A SAXON SUPERSTAR Alfred defeated a Viking invasion and is the only

as 'the Great'

English monarch known

WHEN WAS PAPER MONEY FIRST USED?

declare our desire to have it "warts and all".

The use of paper notes in place of coinage is first recorded in seventh-century China, during the Tang dynasty, among merchants keen to avoid carrying weighty money for large commercial transactions. By the 12th century, the state was issuing its own official notes. Europe, however, lagged behind - it wasn't until the 1500s that

bankers were exchanging deposits of gold for receipts promising to pay on demand. The first modern-style bank notes of a fixed value were produced in 1660s Stockholm and gradually adopted in Europe. EB

> Bank notes, such as this preserved example from the Ming Dynasty, originated in China

The number of men it took to tear apart Brunel's Great Eastern iron ship, starting in 1888. It proved so strong that it took two years to break it down.

Why is Hartlepool Football Club called the 'monkey hangers'?



When it comes to their football team, Hartlepudlians have fully embraced an unusual local legend. It is said that when a French ship was wrecked off the coast during the Napoleonic Wars, the townspeople were so suspicious of the only survivor - a monkey - that they hanged it, fearing it was a French spy. Although a rather grim alternative explanation has suggested the victim was in fact a young boy (one of the 'powder monkeys' tasked with carrying gunpowder during battle).

The earliest connection of Hartlepool with this tale is a Victorian popular song, possibly inspired by a Scottish ditty of 1772 in which a monkey - a sole shipwreck survivor - was hanged so the villagers could claim salvage rights. Whatever its origins, the story is now a source of local pride. In 2002, the football team's mascot, 'H'angus the Monkey', was elected Hartlepool's Mayor, promising "free bananas for schoolchildren". EB



WHO VOICED THE ORIGINAL **SPEAKING CLOCK?**

With a growing number of calls to operators from people just wanting to know the time, the Speaking Clock service began in Britain in 1936. It featured the voice of telephonist Ethel Jane Cain, who was chosen following a nationwide search for "golden voice". Cain became famous for her crisp pronunciation of the word 'precisely,' used at the start of each new

minute. In 1963, Cain was succeeded by Pat Simmons, a supervisor in a London telephone exchange. One of the speaking clock machines (there were two, in case of breakdown) is on display at the British Horological Institute in Nottinghamshire, but although originally a working model, its motor failed the day Simmons died in 2005. SL

ROMAN CANDLES

In Roman times, oil lamps were lit at night so citizens could see where they were walking, or avoid robbers. Many, however, complained that the streetlighting interfered with their anonymity.

> It wasn't until the 1770s that the potato was rehabilitated by a French scientist, Antoine-Augustin Parmentier, who organised stunts to promote them as part of a healthy diet. He had, after all, survived being fed potatoes while a Prussian prisoner of war. Parmentier is now celebrated with recipes named after him, in honour of transforming the spud from horse feed to staple food. GJ

became horse fodder.

Having been discovered

in the New World in the

slow introduction to Europe. The main architect of its

rotten reputation was the

Swiss botanist Caspar

drew a lumpen, gnarly

illustration of the potato

and theorised eating them

caused flatulence, lust and

were refusing to eat them, even

leprosy. Before long, people

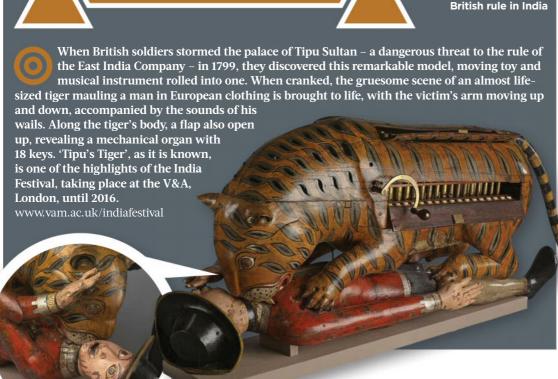
in times of famine, and spuds

Bauhin who. in 1596.

1500s, the potato had an

WHAT IS IT?

TIGER ATTACK Made in the 1790s, this tiger symbolised the downfall of British rule in India



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HERE&ROW

BRITAIN'S TREASURES p90 • PAST LIVES p92 • BOOKS p94

ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

EXHIBITION

Celts: Art and Identity

At the British Museum, London, until 31 January 2016; more at www.britishmuseum.org

Who were the Celts and what does 'Celtic' even mean? These are the questions a major new exhibition at the British Museum hopes to answer by exploring a treasure trove of artefacts. The 'Celts' - a term first used 2,500 years ago by the Ancient Greeks - were not a single people, but a rich group of diverse cultures, as seen in the items they left behind. Their identities have changed, been lost and reinvented over the centuries, and still influence art and culture today. Included in the display is an extremely rare horned helmet (top right), which was discovered in the River Thames, and the ornately decorated silver **Gundestrup Cauldron** (main).



FESTIVAL

History Weekend

15-18 October, Malmesbury Abbey and Town Hall; book tickets at www.historyweekend.com/malmesbury

For the third year running, *BBC History Magazine* is going back to Malmesbury, Wiltshire, for a packed festival of fascinating talks. A host of experts are descending on the historic town (final resting place of the 10th-century Anglo-Saxon King Æthelstan) to speak on an array of subjects and periods. Take a whistle-stop tour of ordinary life throughout history with our Q&A expert Greg Jenner, discover

the secrets of Henry VIII's will with Suzannah Lipscomb (pictured) or follow Dan Snow as he discusses all the landmark anniversaries we've remembered in 2015.

ADVENTURE GAME

Can you solve the clues and escape the guards?

Escape Plan

Book your live escape game experience at escapeplanltd.com

Your team has one hour to find clues and **escape a WWII prisoner camp** in this thrilling London-based adventure game.





EVENT

Battle of Hastings

10-11 October, Abbey and Battlefield, Hastings; search at www.english-heritage.org.uk

There is something for the whole family at the English Heritage-hosted Battle of Hastings weekend. You can feel the intensity of battle as 500 soldiers clash, have a go at falconry or archery, examine the Bayeux Tapestry and enjoy a special play about the momentous events of 1066.

Thaumatropes were popular children's toys in the 19th century



3-4 October, St Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff: more at www.museumwales.ac.uk/stfagans

the excellent St Fagans and make your own thaumatrope toy. Draw two pictures (say, a bird and a cage) on either side of a disk, attach string and twirl it quickly to create a new, blended image

Take a break from walking around



Maud Watts (Carey Mulligan) is a working woman with a husband and children at home, but there is something vitally important she is missing - a voice in politics.

Set in 1912, when British women did not have the vote, Suffragette tells the epochal story of the suffrage movement through the experiences and emotions of one of its foot soldiers. Maud is hurled into a dangerous world of violence, imprisonment and forced **feeding**, all so she can have the same rights as men. As Emmeline Pankhurst (the everbrilliant Meryl Streep) declares to a large gathering of suffragettes, "We do not want to be law-breakers. We want to be law-makers."

The compelling, star-studded Suffragette is written by Abi Morgan (The Iron Lady) and directed by Brick Lane's Sarah Gavron.

EVENT

Photography: a Victorian Sensation

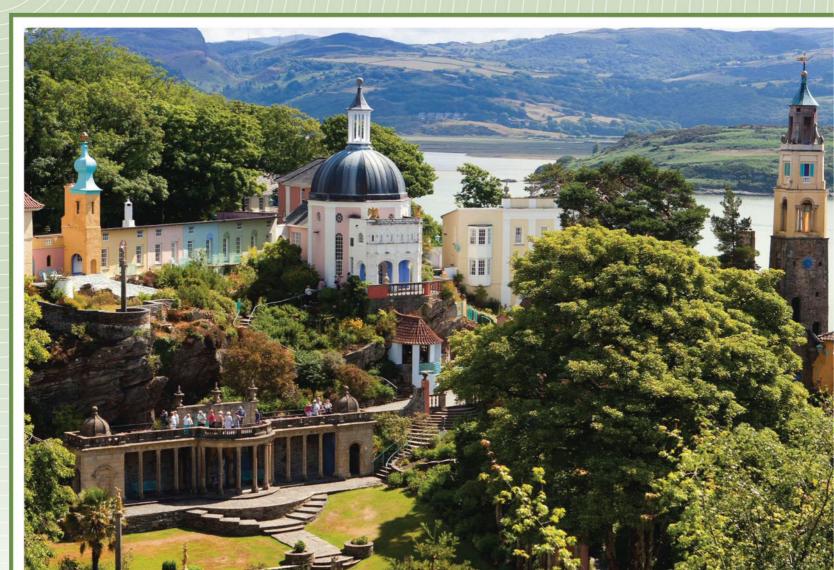
National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh; search at www.nms.ac.uk

Meet the people both behind and in front of the very first cameras with this visually stunning exhibition, which ends next month, and get a sense of how dramatically their lives and views of the world changed with the advent of photography.



· ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- ▶ The Crime Museum Uncovered, at the Museum of London, opens 9 October objects from the history of the Metropolitan Police go on public display for the first time.
- Last chance to see Death at a Distance exploring the explosive history of artillery
- at the National Roman Legion Museum, Caerleon. Ending 15 October.



BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

PORTMEIRION Gwynedd

Well-known as the setting of The Prisoner, this coastal village has its own extraordinary story to tell, involving one eccentric architect on a mission...



estled among the picturesque hills of northwest Wales lies a stunning and surprising Mediterraneanstyle village. How did Italianate cottages end up in this rural Welsh settlement? How did frescoes find their way onto its walls and a central piazza come to tie the village together? It all began in 1925, when a Northamptonshireborn architect named Bertram Clough Williams-Ellis bought what was then a rugged wilderness site

for £20,000. The spot was known as Aber Iâ, but the architect would soon change that, as he would most things about the location. He chose the name Portmeirion: 'Port' for its seaside setting, and 'meirion' from the Welsh for Merioneth, then its county.

PRE-PORTMERION

Before Williams-Ellis began his mission, Aber Iâ was a sleepy rural village, which had, over the years, seen a few admirers. Gerald of

Wales, Archdeacon and chronicler, was the first to record the location while documenting Castell Deudraeth, which overlooked the town, during his 1188 visit.

Later, the location captured the gaze of 17th-century natural historian and keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, Edward Lhuyd. In 1700, he wrote about "Aber Iau". At that time, it had a foundry, a small shipyard and a handful of cottages. It was no significant settlement, however,

ON THE RIVERBANK

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



THE GWYLLT

of wild flowers.

The 'square' includes Riviera-style buildings, an ornamental garden and Italian bell tower.

This 10-hectare Edwardian garden

has a colourful and extensive range



Renovation of the impressive castle, built in the early Victorian era, was only completed in 2001.



BATTERY SQUARE

With its own welcome area and quided tours, this plaza is also home to a The Prisoner gift shop.



GROTTO

Head to the Grotto for a beautiful view of the estuary and Rob Piercy's gallery - a must for art buffs.



CASTELL DEUDRAETH

"He saw something the others had missed: potential"

as the author Richard Richards noted in an 1861 essay: "neither man nor women was there, only a number of foreign waterfowl on a tiny pond." But it was the 20th century's Williams-Ellis who saw something in Aber Iâ that the other observers had missed: potential.

The famous backdrop for cult sixties TV show The

Prisoner, Portmeirion village lies along the River Dwyryd

IDEA MAN

Williams-Ellis was an entirely self-taught architect when he set up his own business at the age of 22. With a passion for landscape design and a commitment to the conservation of rural Wales, the young man was full of ambition, which he applied, with some fervour, to Aber Iâ.

His mission was to create a destination both beautiful and practical. In 1926, just one year into the transformation process, his designs for Portmeirion

appeared in the Architects' Journal and, soon after, the town was opened to the public as a work-in-progress. During this first phase of building, which continued until World War II broke out in 1939, he focused on the characteristic buildings, such as restoring Hotel Portmeirion, first built in 1850.

The hotel's idyllic coastal location drew in artists such as Noel Coward, whose play Blythe Spirit was penned at Hotel Portmeirion in 1941. Work picked up again from 1954, and finished in 1972. Williams-Ellis, by then approaching 90, was awarded a knighthood that same year. He died six years later, in 1978.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

After paying a small amount to enter (see 'The Facts', left) you'll

soon discover that Williams-Ellis achieved his goal: the town is both pretty and purposeful. A stroll through the colourful shops reveals a wealth of pottery - an art for which the area is known. Hercules Hall, one of the oldest of Williams-Ellis's creations, provides a helpful history of the settlement, while Castell Deudraeth boasts a delightful brasserie (and a lunch there includes entry to the town).

The village is surrounded by 70 acres of subtropical woodland gardens, largely landscaped by Williams-Ellis. They hold 5,000 species of rhododendrons, camellias, Californian redwoods, a New Zealand 'dancing tree' and the tallest Chilean Maiten tree in Britain. Guided tours of the village include a forest train tour. Check the Portmeirion website for more information before you travel. •

WHY NOT VISIT...

to one of these nearby attractions

FFESTINIOG RAILWAY

Minffordd station is a little over a mile from Portmeirion. From there, steam trains run into scenic Snowdonia. www.festrail.co.uk

PORTHMADOG MARITIME MUSEUM

This bijou museum boasts an interesting collection of seafaring artefacts. www.porthmadog maritimemuseum.org.uk

CRICCIETH CASTLE

Just 20 minutes away by car is this 13th-century castle, built for the Princes of Gwynedd. Search at: cadw.wales.gov.uk

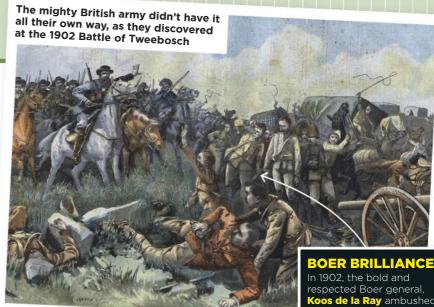
HERE & NOW PAST LIVES

PAST LIVES

HISTORY THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR ANCESTORS

SURVIVING THE SECOND BOER WAR

Jon Bauckham delves into the bloody experiences of British soldiers, fighting for the Empire in the southern lands of Africa...



and humiliating

defeats, including the

disastrous Battle of

Koos de la Ray ambushed the British at the Battle of Tweebosch (seen here in a contemporary illustration), killing or capturing over 350 men for the loss of 51 soldiers

READER'S STORY



Nancy Ffrench Atkinson Middlesex

My husband Keith and I have been researching

the life of my grandfather, Ernest George Ffrench, who was born in Jamaica in 1876 and, although illegitimate and of mixed race, went on to study medicine in Edinburgh.

In 1900, Ernest volunteered as a civil surgeon during the Second Boer War. He was attached to the 1st Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) and witnessed some of the most brutal episodes of the conflict, such as the Battle of Rhenoster Kop. Decades later, he recounted the battle saying he saw British soldiers "dropping like flies under the terrific carnage wrought by native fire'

Ernest clearly made a big impression as, after ten months of service, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief recommended him for a commission. He earned the Queen's and King's South Africa medals and five clasps, became a lieutenant in 1901 and went on to join the Royal Army Medical Corps.

After the Second Boer War, **Ernest settled** in England and became an eminent surgeon. He also commanded field hospitals during World War I and was twice mentioned

in dispatches.

ike thousands of patriotic young men across Britain, 21-year-old John Milne felt it was his duty to enlist in the army and fight for his country. "We left Aberdeen at two o'clock amid the cheers of the people, a scene which I will never forget," scribbled the Scotsman in his diary, "We marched along Union Street, down Market Street and along Guild Street to the station."

It sounds like the experiences at the start of World War I, yet the events Milne described took place not in 1914, but February 1900 - just months into the Second Boer War. The naïve optimism often associated with World War I, however, was less apparent during this earlier conflict. Already, the Boers (Afrikaans for 'farmers') had proven to be a formidable foe, and Milne had every right to be anxious.

"At last we dropped into the station one-byone and into the carriages, some of us perhaps never to return again," he added in his diary entry that day.

As its name suggests, the Second Boer War was not the first conflict between the British colonies and Dutch states in Southern Africa. Two decades earlier, the First Boer War resulted in the deaths of 400 British troops. But this time, the hostilities were more severe. Eager to expand its Empire and access gold reserves in Witwatersrand, Britain came to loggerheads with both the Orange Free State and the Transvaal after refusing to remove troops from their borders. The two South African republics mobilised in October 1899, subjecting the British to some crushing

Even with superior numbers,

the British army suffered in the

hot climate and difficult terrain

Spion Kop in January 1900. **MODERN WARFARE**

"Shells rained in among us," recalled one British eyewitness at the battle, "The most hideous sights were exhibited. Men blown to atoms, joints torn asunder. Headless bodies, trunks of bodies. Everything was confusion, officers were killed or mixed up in other regiments, the men had no one to rally them and became demoralised."

Although Britain would claw back and topple the Boer states by September, fighting against guerilla armies was to continue for another two years - only ending after Britain starved them into surrender. By 1902, nearly 28,000 Boer civilians had perished in British concentration camps.

While Britain's early failures during the Second Boer War were to highlight how oldfashioned both its military and imperialist approach could be, the bitter final stages were to act as a brutal prelude for the shape of modern warfare to come. •

GET HOOKED

Thomas Pakenham's The Boer War (1979) remains the most detailed study of the conflict. The diary of Private John Milne can be read on his granddaughter's website: www.jwmilne.freeservers.com.

DO YOU HAVE AN ANCESTOR WITH A STORY TO TELL? GET IN TOUCH...



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Ernest George Ffrench, Boer War surgeon



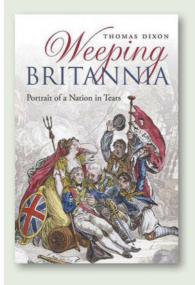


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BOOK OF THE MONTH



Weeping **Britannia: Portrait of** a Nation in Tears

By Thomas Dixon Oxford University Press, £25, 456 pages, hardback

Keep your chin up, as the old

phrase goes. Yet, as Thomas Dixon reveals, the image of the

stoic Brit may not be that old, and may not fairly represent the British. By all accounts, British history is awash with tears: Oliver Cromwell, Queen Victoria, Paul Gascoigne and Margaret

Margaret Thatcher couldn't hold back the tears when she left office in 1990

She is known as the 'Iron Lady', but

Thatcher have all famously been overcome with emotion. These case studies point to wider shifts in attitudes towards crying, as well as what was making us so upset - or happy - in the first place.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Thomas Dixon invites the British to open up about their feelings, and embrace that they live in a nation not of stiff upper lips, but of weepers

What first inspired you to write this book?

I've always been a fairly sentimental person, but was aware of the British tradition of the 'stiff upper lip' so was curious about where it came from. Then, a few years ago, I was invited to give a talk about Charles Darwin and emotions. As I researched, I discovered that we Brits had a much more emotional and lachrymose history than I had realised.

Does anyone's tearful story particularly stand out?

I love Margery Kempe, the medieval mystic who opens my book. She was an extreme weeper - not only shedding tears, but falling down and sometimes weeping for hours at a time. She saw it as a spiritual gift but others thought she was

drunk, mad or just irritating. Religion has provided the context for a lot of weeping in the past. And there's George Whitefield, a hellfire Methodist preacher who shed buckets of tears as he delivered florid sermons in his flamboyant style, handkerchief in hand.

How have British attitudes towards crying changed over the centuries?

The mentality that the British keep their chins up, or have stiff upper lips, which some of us grew up with - and which

our parents and grandparents were almost universally taught - was actually an aberration in our national history. It was the product of the imperialism of the Victorian and Edwardian eras, which was only heightened by the experiences of two World Wars in the 20th century. The 'stiff upper lip' became a famous British trait mainly through a light-hearted Gershwin song of that title in the 1937 movie A Damsel in Distress.

There are several deeper sources explaining the British suspicion of tears too, including the idea that Catholics were excessively emotional in their worship and rituals, as well as the impression reinforced during the French Revolution that our continental neighbours were dangerously passionate.

ancestors' emotions would vou like readers to leave this book with? I hope readers will come away

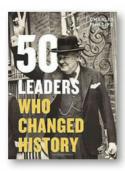
What new impression of our

thinking there's more to their own tears than mere 'emotional incontinence', as some people still insist on calling crying. A tear is, as William Blake said, an intellectual thing. When something moves us to tears, it connects not only with shallow feelings but with a shared humanity, and with our own beliefs about the world. Our ancestors understood that - we can still learn from them.



"A tear is, as William Blake said, an intellectual thing"

THE BEST OF THE REST



50 Leaders who Changed History

by Charles Phillips Apple Press, £12.99, 224 pages, hardback

There are not many people who can truly say that the decisions they make affect the course of world history. All the famous figures in this insightful collection of minibiographies, however, can confidently make that claim. The lives and choices of each leader, from Alexander the Great to Winston Churchill, are explored with engaging and visually appealing detail.

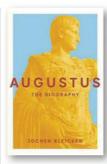


The Ghosts of K2: the Epic Saga of the First Ascent

by Mick Conefrey

Oneworld Publications, £20, 336 pages, hardback

Standing at 8,611 metres tall, the world's second largest mountain, K2, has claimed 80 lives – it is seen by many as a much tougher challenge than Everest. Conefrey gives a compelling account of the first attempt to conquer 'Savage Mountain' in 1954, exploring both the practical side of the mission and the people brave enough to attempt the climb.



Augustus: the Biography

by Jochen Bleicken, translated by Anthea Bell Allen Lane, £30, 784 pages, hardback

Augustus has quite the legacy: he not only founded the Roman Empire, and was its first dictator, but he became a conqueror and peacekeeper. Bleicken's lengthy biography, newly available in English, charts one of the most dramatic periods in classical history, and the man, seen as a demi-god, who was instrumental in shaping it.

READ UP ON...

ANCIENT EGYPT

Daunted by the sprawling history of a diverse civilisation spanning millennia? Here are three good places to start...



Hatshepsut may have been Egypt's longest-reigning female ruler, but she was often depicted as a man

Red Nile: a Biography of the World's Greatest River By Robert Twigger (2013)

Without the Nile, Egyptian civilisation would have been impossible. So a history

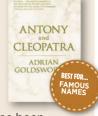
of the river is a useful place to start, and provides witty and unexpected detours, such as tales of underwear, baboons and Agatha Christie.



Antony and CleopatraBy Adrian Goldsworthy (2010)

She's one of Ancient Egypt's most famous figures, but much of what we think we

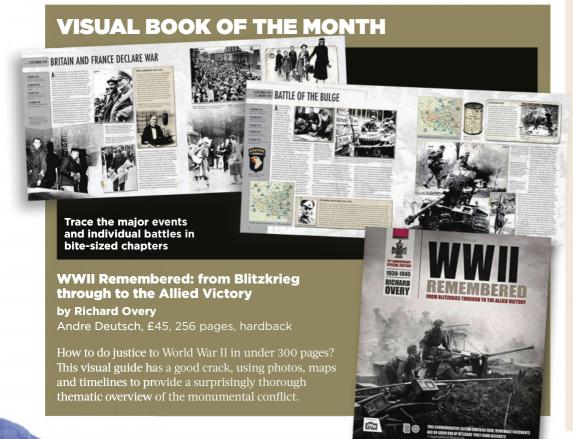
know about Cleopatra has been shaped by later interpretations. This vibrant book mixes Egyptian mythbusting with a look at the rise of Rome to tell the lovers' real story.



The Woman who Would Be King By Kara Cooney (2015)

For an entertaining

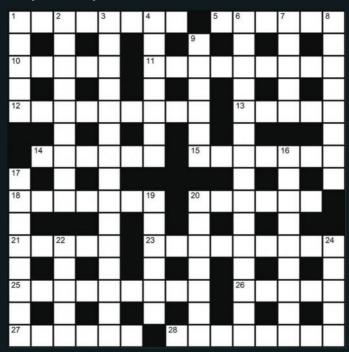
and well-researched biography on a lesser-known – but no less influential and powerful – Egyptian woman, try this account on Hatshepsut, Egypt's longest-reigning female ruler.



CROSSWORD Nº 21

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle - and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- **1** Arthur of ____, King John's nephew who mysteriously vanished in 1203 (8)
- **5** International welfare fund for children and mothers, founded in 1946 (6)
- **10** Henrik ___ (1828-1906), Norwegian playwright (5)
- **11** John ___ (1776-1837), English landscape artist who painted *The Hay Wain* (9)
- **12** Jewish Italian chemist, celebrated author and survivor of Auschwitz (1919–87) (5,4)
- **13** Steve ___ (b.1955), Brighton-born Olympic middle-distance runner (5)
- **14** "But thy eternal ____ shall not fade" – from William Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 (6)

- **15** Scottish city associated with the architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh (7)
- **18** East Asian country unified in 1976 (7)
- **20** Humphrey ___ (1899-1957), American Hollywood actor (6)
- 21 Book of the Bible between Micah and Habakkuk - named after a minor prophet (5)
- **23** The legendary sword of King Arthur (9)
- **25** Jacques ___ (1819-80), composer known for *The Tales Of Hoffmann* (9)
- **26** ___ Terry (1847-1928), celebrated English actress who worked with Henry Irving (5)
- **27** Polish seaport, birthplace of the Solidarity movement to end Communist rule (6)

28 "The ___ came down like a wolf on the fold, / And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold" - from a poem by Lord Byron (1815) (8)

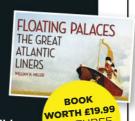
DOWN

- 1 Colonel ____, British comic character created by the cartoonist David Low (5)
- 2 Mechanics' ____, adult workers' educational centre, which became widespread between 1820 and 1860 (9)
- **3** The ___ (1956), Biblical epic by Cecil B DeMille (3,12)
- **4** "Ours is a world of ___ giants and ethical infants" - US general Omar Bradley, 1948 (7)
- **6** Art museum founded in 1824, now located on Trafalgar Square (8,7)
- 7 ___ Street, London, scene of a 1936 clash between the British Union of Fascists and anti-fascist demonstrators (5)
- **8** Former British colony in West Africa, now the capital of Sierra Leone (8)
- **9** Mary ___ (1799-1847), English palaeontologist and prolific fossil-hunter (6)
- **16** Giuseppe ____ (1807-1882), Italian soldier and patriot (9)
- **17** Evening Prayer in the Anglican Church (8)
- **19** Female follower of the Ancient Greek god of wine and ecstasy Dionysus... (6)
- 20 ...and his counterpart in Roman myth (7)
- **22** Jimmy ___ (b.1913), American labour leader who vanished in 1975 (5)
- **24** In Japanese history, a masterless samurai warrior (5)

CHANCE TO WIN...

Floating Palaces: the Great Atlantic Liners

by Bill Miller



The race to build the fastest and most luxurious ocean liner gave the world elegant 'floating palaces' - seen in their full beauty in this picture-led overview.

Published by Amberley
Publishing, £19.99.

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to History Revealed, October 2015 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 OAA or email them to october2015 @ historyrevealedcomps.co.uk by noon on 14 October 2015. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of History Revealed, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.

SOLUTION Nº 19



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The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How** to Enter, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy.

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up.

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How the Nuremberg Trials brought the world's most notorious criminals to justice



GUY FAWKES AND THE GUNPOWDER PLOT THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT RISE OF THE SUFFRAGETTES ROME'S COLOSSEUM HISTORY'S GREATEST SPIES THE BIRTH OF RUGBY APARTHEID Q&A AND MUCH MORE...



A-Z of History

Jabbering jester **Nige Tassell** has a jolly job as he jumps around a jamboree of historical jewels and japes

JEOPARDY IN JAMESTOWN

The first permanent English settlement in North America, Jamestown, had an inglorious beginning after the inaugural inhabitants landed in 1607. The winter of 1609-10, known as the 'Starving Time' after the previous summer's drought had yielded little food, was particularly cruel – only 97 of the settlement's 500 settlers survived.

Julius's Judgement Most assassinations are

Most assassinations are performed by a single assailant (think Lincoln, Gandhi, Martin Luther King), but Julius Caesar's enemies left nothing to chance. On the Ides of March in 44 BC – according to Roman historian Eutropius – upwards of 60 men took part in the execution, with Caesar the victim of 23 stab wounds.

JENNER GOES CUCKOO

Celebrated for the smallpox vaccine, the 18th-century scientist Edward Jenner also had an interest in zoology, particularly the nesting habits of cuckoos. In 1787, he became the first to reveal that it was actually the justborn fledgling cuckoo, not one of its parents as generally believed, who removed eggs from the host's nest in order to secure all the food provided by its foster parents.

James Joyce at the movies

Most famously the author of *Ulysses* (1922) the Irish modernist novelist can claim another achievement. In 1909, at the age of 27, he opened Ireland's first purpose-built cinema, the Volta Cinematograph, having persuaded four investors to stump up the cash. His interest didn't last long and Joyce abandoned the film industry just a few months later, much to literature's gain.

THE JOBURG JUGGERNAUT

The South African
city of Johannesburg
was founded in 1886,
following the recent
discovery of the
Witwatersrand gold reef,
and in just one decade,
the settlement rapidly
expanded to some
100,000 residents. It is
now the world's largest
city not served by a river,
lake or ocean.

JOUSTING DANGERS

A quintessential pastime in medieval England, jousting was seen less favourably across the Channel, especially after the French King Henry II died in 1559. While participating in a tournament to celebrate a Franco-Spanish peace treaty, Henry suffered vicious head wounds when his opponent's lance penetrated his brain. After his death, Catherine de Medici, Henry's widow, banned the sport across the kingdom.

JOLLY JEREMY: THE ICON

When the happy-go-lucky English philosopher Jeremy Bentham died in 1832, his body – in accordance with his will – was dissected in front of many of his friends. The skeleton (padded with hay) was then dressed in his clothes, propped in his chair and placed in a glass case so he would become, as he called it, an 'auto-icon'. Mummifying the head turned out to be tricky so a wax replacement sits atop the real-life effigy, which is still on display at University College London today.

JUST JODHPURS

Jodhpurs, tight-fitting trousers worn for horse riding, were named mistakenly. In 1897, Sir Pratan Singh, son of the Maharajah of the Indian province of Jodhpur, visited Britain as part of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee, bringing with him his polo team, resplendent in breeches known as chiridar. When asked what these trousers were called, Singh misheard the question and, thinking he was asked where he came from, answered 'Jodhpur'.

POPPIES WOMEN AND WAR



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